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BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Sunday, October 24, 2004 ★★★ 120 108 pages / 14 sections / vol. 19 / no. 319 P18

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Pimentel warns GMA 'ripe for another people power'

By Michael Lim Ubac
in Manila
and Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

WITH the supposed involvement of the US Central Intelligence Agency in the disclosure of the corruption scandal in the Armed

PIMENTEL/ A8

Leyte health care graduates help reverse brain drain

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

PALO, Leyte—They may not run faster than a speeding bullet, or be stronger than a locomotive, nor can they leap tall buildings in a single bound.

But they are super-heroes nonetheless to the hundreds of mothers they helped to deliv-

LEYTE/ A22

AFP's golden parachute

Retiring chiefs of staff get up to ₱300M 'pabaon'

By Fe Zamora

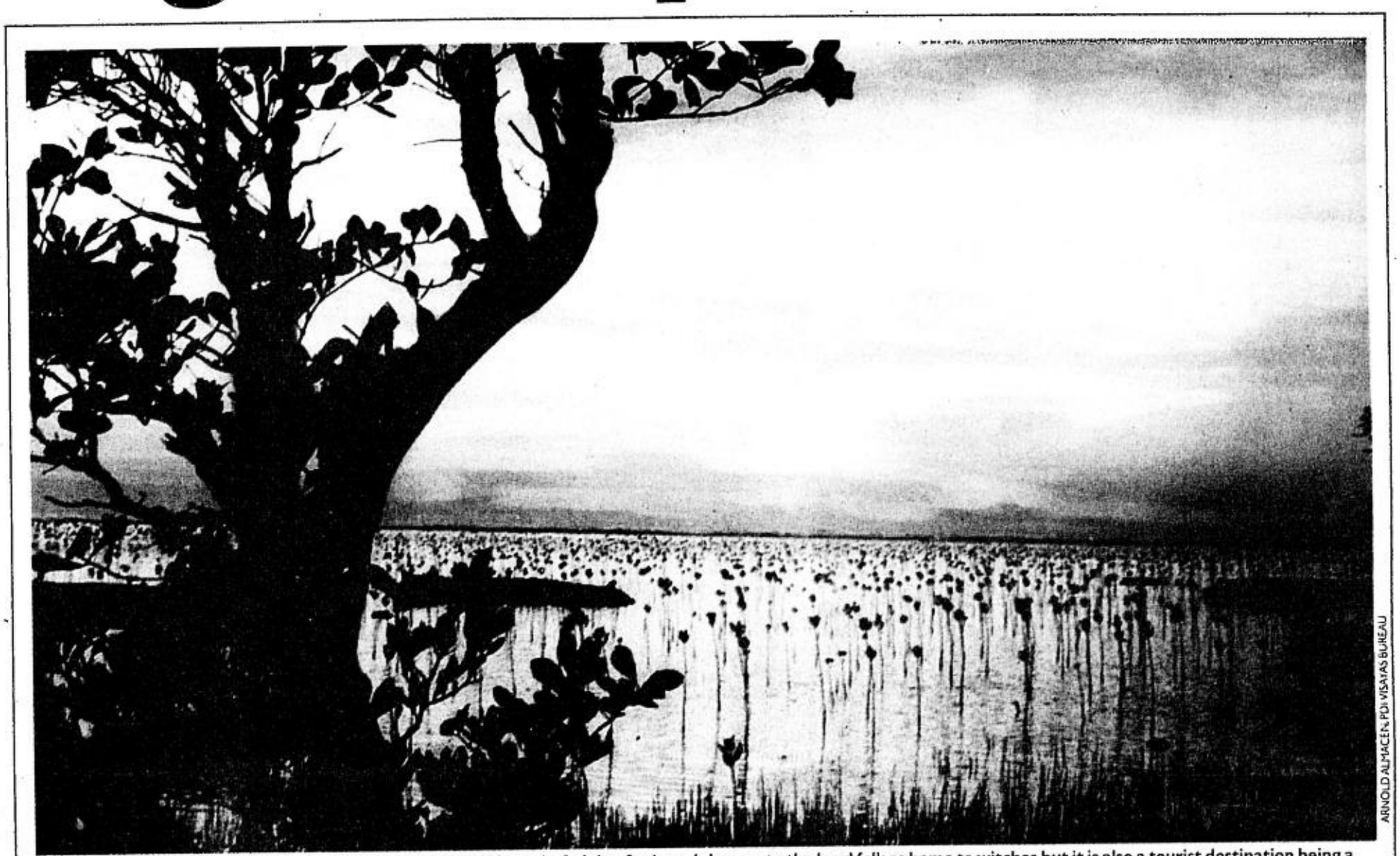
RETIRING chiefs of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines are sent off with *"pabaon"* or take-home benefits ranging from P100 million to P300 million, according to military sources both active and retired.

The *"pabaon"* is pooled from the AFP's "centrally managed funds" (CMF) or "contingency funds" over which the chief of staff has full control, "conversions" from regular funds, and "contributions" from contractors of military supplies and hardware, the sources said.

A retired general said P200 million from the CMF has been earmarked as the contingency funds of the chief of staff since Angelo Reyes' term.

The outgoing top gun, Gen. Narciso Abaya, confirmed that as chief of staff he had contingency

AFP'S GOLDEN/ A8



ARNOLD ALMACEN / PDI VISAYAS BUREAU

SUN SETS ON WITCHES BREW. The "mystery" island of Nugas in Anini-y, Antique, is known to the local folk as home to witches but it is also a tourist destination being a bird and marine sanctuary and a "no-take" zone meaning that one needs a permit to pick up even a single seashell, as the islanders are keen on preserving the ecological balance of the 5,000 sq.m. eerie habitat swarming with hundreds of mangrove trees.

CONFESSIONS OF AN AFP SUPPLIER

'Sharing your blessings is not a crime'

By Arlyn dela Cruz
Contributor

HOW DOES one seal a contract with the Armed Forces of the Philippines?

Two ways, according to a seasoned supplier.

First, you have to be prepared to set aside "PR" money—also called "SOP"—amounting to 10 to 30 percent of what you hope to collect.

Second, you pray you get lucky enough to get hold of a very important secret about the main signatory to the contract you want to clinch—say, a general in the procurement section.

Yes, PR money and a lot of luck, which means being in the right place at the right time, like bumping into a general in a supermarket while he is with a very young and sexy lady who does not, from any angle, look like his wife.

These were the actual words of a supplier of the Armed Forces who began transacting business with the AFP as early as 1974.

Like all the other suppliers of the Armed Forces, this one who didn't want to be named, said she was sharing her views with this reporter not to add to the controversies already shaking the military organization but to stress the fact that what was happening in the AFP also happened in other agencies of government.

The woman supplier pointed out that legislators who have at their disposal millions of pesos in pork barrel funds should not feign innocence over how transactions are done in the government.

In short, according to this supplier, what is considered "normal" in the AFP is also "normal" in other agencies of government, especially when it comes to contracts involving millions of pesos.

She expressed her views in the wake of a congressional inquiry into the alleged unexplained wealth of former AFP comptroller Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia. The general has come under intense grilling by lawmakers looking into the extent of military corruption.

"Dealing with the AFP is no different from dealing with other agencies of government," she said. "Even with private offices and institutions, that is the system. There is really an SOP and those who will say there is no SOP because the bidding is legal are hypocrites. That is not true, more so now."

In her 20 years of dealing with the AFP, this supplier said she di-

SHARING/ A8

Abaya: Man in a hurry to retire away from line of fire

By Frank Cimatu
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

FORT DEL PILAR, Baguio City—Outgoing Armed Forces chief of staff Gen. Narciso Abaya joked that he was a man in a hurry to retire.

With all the controversies swirling around him, the military and the Philippine Military Academy, can you blame him?

"With everything that's coming out in media lately, and the number of invitations I have been receiving for congressional hearings in aid of legislation, I wish the gods in heaven

ABAYA/ A21

Father of first and only Filipino doctor in German army mentor to RP generals

EV ESPIRITU/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

GERMAN-FILIPINO couple, Michel Paul Marie Schwartz and Norma Olarte Schwartz, are the proudest parents in Baguio these days.

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Michel Paul Marie Schwartz is the happiest father in Baguio today. The amiable, silver-haired European has been known to regale total strangers with the story of his daughter, Norma, a 26-year-old doctor who is the first German-Filipino to rise in Germany's military service.

Stabsarztin Norma Olarte Schwartz holds dual citizenship, having been born to Michel, a retired director in Germany's defense ministry, and Norma Cristeta Olarte, an Ilocano nurse who worked for 30 years at the University of Cologne.

Norma's rank is equivalent to a captain in the Philippine Army medical corps. She serves at the Bundeswehr Krakenhaus Berlin-Mitte in the German capital.

Young Germans are drafted to serve for two years in government service under the country's completely subsidized health care and education system.

Norma volunteered to join the German military after finishing junior high school to study medicine. She received her license last year and is now training to become a surgeon in preparation for deployment overseas to countries requiring German medical help.

Norma was born in 1978 in Baguio City where the elder Schwartzes had settled and at a time when her father was shuttling between Germany and the Philippines.

According to her mother, Norma had a normal childhood. She is a voracious reader and speaks German, French, English and Filipino.

She studied in German elementary schools, and took a one-year break to finish junior high school in the United States before embarking on a military career.

"Her rise in the German military was an unexpected windfall from my background as a nurse and Michel's post in the German Defense Ministry High Office," said Norma Cristeta.

The young Norma's career in the German military calls attention to Germany's indirect contribution to the modernization of the Philippine military.

In between his directorial post at the German Defense Ministry High Office, Michel Schwartz was juggling a teaching career training future Philippine generals at the German General Staff College from 1980 to 1997.

The German exchange study program was drawn up during the regime of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, and the German General Staff College courses on tactical evaluation and quick military response became a prerequisite for obtaining a general's star.

The program has since been discontinued because of the country's deficit problems, according to retired Brig. Gen. Ramon Ong, former chief of the 54th Engineering Brigade, one of the program's beneficiaries.

Schwartz taught many Filipino senior military officials about military ethics and tactical skills, which provides an interesting counterpoint to the scandal now engulfing the Armed Forces.

Schwartz has stayed in touch with all his former students like Maj. Gen. Emmanuel Teodosio, chief of the AFP Central Com-

FATHER/ A22

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Extreme Northern Luzon will have rains and gusty winds with moderate to rough seas. The rest of Northern Luzon and the eastern sections of Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.
SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: CHONA CALANG, PDI RESEARCH (10/24/04)

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Second FRONTPAGE

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Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Rains and gusty winds	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Rains and gusty winds	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Education crisis seen to worsen

By Dona Pazzibugan

THE COUNTRY'S public schools are going through their worst crisis ever, with the shortage of teachers and classrooms likely to worsen next year owing to inadequate funding, the Alliance of Concerned Teachers warned yesterday.

ACT chair Antonio Tinio said that by next year, there would be a shortage of at least 60,000 teachers and 50,000 classrooms, based on data presented by the Department of Education during a budget hearing before the House appropriations committee.

The shortage could be higher if Congress fails to pass a new budget, which would force the national government to depend on a reenacted budget for the second consecutive year.

"Our public schools are experiencing their worst crisis ever," Tinio said.

He said the DepEd's proposal to hire 5,000 new teachers and build 6,000 new classrooms in 2005 would not be enough to alleviate the problem.

"In spite of these new inputs, the DepEd's own figures show that students and teachers must brace for a teacher shortage of 49,699 and a classroom shortage of 57,930," said Tinio.

"These are significantly higher than the current shortages of 39,535 teachers and 51,947 classrooms."

He disputed a statement made recently by committee chair Rep. Rolando Andaya that the Arroyo administration would be hiring 20,000 new teachers in 2004 and 2005.

"To be accurate, the DepEd hired only 7,500 new classroom teachers in 2004 and is set to hire an additional 5,000 in 2005. So that's only 12,500," Tinio said.

The rest of the new items in 2004 and 2005 are for principal and non-teaching items, such as supervisors and clerks, he said.

ACT has been castigating the Arroyo administration for not taking adequate steps to alleviate the acute shortages in the public schools.

"The truth is that the creation of new teaching items under the administration has had no impact on the shortage of teachers, which has grown from 35,818 in 2002 to 49,699 in 2005," he said.

ACT estimates that an additional P70 billion needs to be added to the current DepEd budget of about P106 billion to wipe out resource shortages, provide for a P3,000 across-the-board salary increase for teachers, and adequately fund maintenance and operating expenses of the public schools.

The DepEd had asked for a P110-billion budget in 2004, which includes a budget of P970 million to hire 10,000 new teachers. Instead, Congress reenacted the national budget for that year.

For next year, the DepEd has asked for a P112-billion budget.

The problem of resource shortages in public schools worsens each year.

In 2003, studies placed the shortage of public school teachers at 50,000. About 13,000 new teachers have to be hired every year to maintain a 40:1 student-to-teacher ratio for the 17.4-million students in public schools.

The DepEd last year said the teacher shortage was only around 19,000, but this assumed a class size of 50 pupils to one teacher.

In 2003, independent studies showed the classroom shortage at 44,700. The education budget that year only covered 5,333 additional classrooms, or 12 percent of the total classroom shortage.

The DepEd, however, said classroom shortage was only at 18,700, assuming a class size of 60 pupils to a room.

Ombudsman to recruit citizens vs graft

By Armand N. Nocum

THE PEOPLE are mad as hell and will not tolerate corruption in government anymore.

The Office of the Ombudsman has decided to exploit this public outrage and has lined up programs to encourage people to report, monitor and stop the commission of graft.

"Ordinary citizens are angry at grafters in government. Instead of whining, we want them to channel their anger, to volunteer and monitor the bidding and implementation of government projects," Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo said.

The statement came amid the corruption scandal involving top officials of the military.

One of the projects is the Kontra-kikil (Anti-Extortion) program which will be set up before the end of the year in graft-prone offices.

Ordinary people will be given the chance to stop corruption by reporting it to action centers as it occurs.

"We also need brave citizens to help us with our entrapment operations against corrupt government personnel," Marcelo said.

Also in the works are tie-ups with church and student organizations whose members will be trained on how to spot, report and monitor graft.

"The public wants to help but they don't know what to do. We can train priests and youth leaders on how to spot and fight graft. They, in turn, can pass on the knowhow to the public," he said.

In the past, Marcelo lamented, corrupt officials had no qualms about showing off their ill-gotten wealth. In fact, the public looked up to these dirty officials and would pick them as sponsors for weddings and baptisms, as well as social activities.

To correct this perception, the Palace launched the lifestyle check program to show the public that corruption was a "high risk, low reward" activity.

The program initially targeted officials of the Bureau of Customs, the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Department of Public Works and Highways, resulting in the dismissal or the suspension of a number of erring officials.

Still, Marcelo admitted, they had yet to catch the proverbial "big fish." So far, their program only hit undersecretaries, deputy collectors and commissioners of the three agencies.

Again, he encouraged the public to report graft.

NEW TERMINAL
President Macapagal-Arroyo lowers a time capsule during ground-breaking rites for the Metro Transport Terminal of the MRT 3 located at the corner of Edsa and North Avenue in Quezon City, yesterday. Others in photo are MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando, DOTC Secretary Leandro Mendoza and QC Vice Mayor Herbert Bautista. VAL HANDUMON

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Sikapinoy

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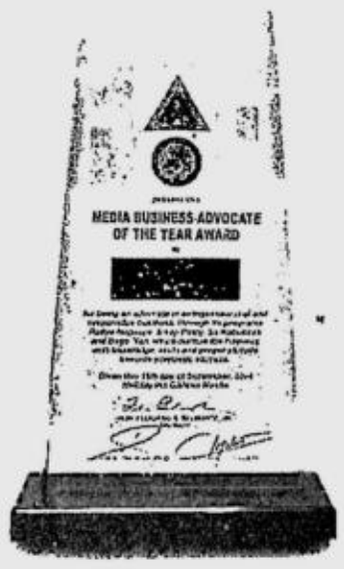

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- True Value

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- Body & Face by Mendrez
- Cesar's Portrait (Davao)
- Dermstress (Kapitol branch)
- Freshaire Salon
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Lacson 'perched in same tree' as Garcia, say solons

By Cynthia D. Balana

UNAMUSED congressmen investigating the alleged unexplained wealth of a military general yesterday took exception to Sen. Panfilo Lacson's remarks on Friday that they, too, had received kickbacks from suppliers and contractors.

Majority Leader Prospero Nograles said Lacson was not only barking up the wrong tree but was, in fact, "perched in the same tree" as beleaguered Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia, since the former police chief had also been accused of amassing hidden wealth by the United States government.

"Senator Lacson cannot pontificate to lawmakers regarding moral authority since, like Garcia, he too was accused of having dollars and properties abroad, which became the subject of investigation by US authorities. Nothing happened in the matter, and we do not want the same happening to Garcia's case," Nograles said.

He said it was unethical for Lacson to cast aspersions on those looking into the alleged unexplained wealth of Garcia. Such "unfair criticism" against congressmen, he said, showed the senator's disdain for parliamentary courtesy.

Deputy Speaker for Mindanao Gerry Salapudin said Lacson should not have assailed congressmen for investigating Garcia and other military officers for alleged graft and corruption because the issues raised were damaging to the entire Armed Forces of the Philippines.

The House leaders said the committees on national defense and on banks and financial intermediaries chaired, respectively, by Reps. Roilo Golez and Jaime Lopez, were fully aware of their responsibilities.

Nograles said that based on official documents from the US attorney general, Lacson had maintained from 1996 to 2001 several accounts in American banks amounting to $1.4 million.

Lacson is facing pending criminal cases before the Ombudsman which were based on the report submitted to the Department of Justice in 2001 and 2002 under the RP-US Mutual Assistance Treaty. Commissioner Miles F. Ehlrich, US attorney for the North District of California, US Attorney David W. Shapiro and Criminal Division Chief J. Douglas Wilson prepared the report.

Nograles said the senator should help in the effort to reform the AFP instead of criticizing congressmen for their resolve in ferreting out the truth regarding the unexplained wealth of Garcia, Lacson's "mistah" in Philippine Military Academy Class 1971.

What a little dinner can do

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

THE DINNER at the Palace apparently did wonders.

Malacañang yesterday dismissed fears that a continuing investigation into alleged corruption in the military's top ranks could hurt the morale of soldiers and spawn a mutiny.

"Morale and discipline are the primary concerns of the [military] command at a time when we are keeping a constant alert against terrorism and insurgency," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said in a statement, explaining the unscheduled dinner on Thursday which President Macapagal-Arroyo hosted for around 40 battalion and brigade commanders from Luzon.

"There is no need for loyalty checks," Bunye added. "The loyalty of our soldiers to the Constitution, the people and the chain of command is unbreakable."

Ms Arroyo met with the group of generals and colonels after the military brass monitored concerns aired by certain officers over the graft accusation against former Armed Forces of the Philippines comptroller Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia.

The general has been restricted to quarters while an investigation is going on into allegations that he amassed tens of millions of pesos on a monthly salary of less than P40,000.

Military public information officer Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero earlier said "that there are negative sentiments from our soldiers as a result of this controversy" with some seeing the probe of the general as an attack on the entire Armed Forces.

Bunye said troop morale remained high despite the corruption controversy.

"The moves against high level corruption are being taken in a positive light as part of the overall effort to uphold military justice and professionalism," he said.

Bunye said Ms Arroyo used the dinner to explain what was being done about the corruption cases involving senior military officers.

"Explanations were given and the President explained what was happening and, as a response, those present said they were supporting the chain of command," Bunye said in an RMN interview. *With an AFP report*

The Philippine Society of Oncologists, Inc.

6th CANCER CONGRESS and 20th ANNUAL CONVENTION

October 27-29, 2004 • EDSA Shangri-la Hotel

Theme: "New Approaches to Old Problems in Cancer Prevention, Diagnosis and Treatment"

MESSAGES

My esteemed greetings to the officers and members of the Philippine Society of Oncologists, Inc. on the occasion of your 20th Annual Convention and 6th Cancer Congress.

Your theme, "New Approaches to Old Problems in Cancer Prevention, Diagnosis and Treatment," involves new scientific approaches and modern technologies dealing with the nature of oncology. I believe that this event will spur you on to modernize and raise the level of your profession aimed at improving the prevention and treatment of this dreadful disease. It is hoped that through your organization, our country will remain abreast with, and competitive with, the most advanced countries in the unrelenting quest for the conquest of cancer.

I commend you for doing your best to enhance your practice. I enjoin you to keep alive your hopes and dreams for our country while working hard to assure our people of a healthier and more productive life. Let us all unite to achieve a strong Philippine Republic capable of providing for our well-being.

Thank you and Mabuhay kayong lahat!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

I convey my warm greetings to the officers and members of the Philippine Society of Oncologists, Inc. as they hold their 20th Annual Convention.

I highly regard your efforts to enhance our health care system by rendering relevant health management approaches that are essential in cancer care, diagnosis and treatment.

As highly respected oncologists of the country, I enjoin all of you to continue providing essential programs and projects that will benefit our cancer patients in the country, especially in the light of your theme, "New Approaches to Old problems in Cancer Prevention, Diagnosis and Treatment."

Let us continue to raise awareness on cancer consciousness among our people. Together, let us strengthen our capabilities to resolve deficiencies in order to have a unified direction in attaining a healthy and strong republic.

Congratulations and mabuhay kayong lahat!

MANUEL DAYRIT, MD, MSc.
Secretary of Health

I am happy to welcome all participants and our distinguished guests to the 2004 Celebration of the 20th Annual Convention of the Philippine Society of Oncologists and the 6th Cancer Congress. The Scientific Committee has chosen a very appropriate theme for this year's congress. "New Approaches to Old Problems in Cancer Prevention, Diagnosis and Treatment." It has put up a balanced program highlighting the multidisciplinary nature of cancer care. The topics for discussion are scientifically and socially relevant to the physicians who are involved in the practice of oncology.

I wish to express my profound gratitude to all who in one way or another has made this convention possible: to the Organizing Committee, whose hard work has made this convention a great success; to the Officers and Council members, for the invaluable support not only for this convention but also to the different activities of the Society this year, to to all our sponsors, for their commitment to the various activities of the society; to our speakers, for sharing their expertise and to all the participants.

REY H. DE LOS REYES, MD
President
Philippine Society of Oncologists, Inc.

The Philippine Society of Oncologists holds its 20th Annual Convention and 6th Cancer Congress at at a time of transition for Filipino Oncologists. Today, more than ever before, we are called upon to take a new look at cancer as a clinical and public health concern, to re-examine our treatment philosophies as well as capacities, and indeed to find new approaches to old challenges.

We face such challenges knowing fully well our individual and collective limitations. We see a growing cancer menace that afflicts thousands of our people who have the least resources to afford therapy. We are bewildered by new treatment technologies whose applicability and cost-effectiveness still beg to be validated. We ourselves are hard-pressed to keep up with the rapidly changing landscape of oncologic problem-solving.

Through this Convention and Congress, the Society hopes to crystallize these challenges and bring them to the fore. We enjoin our members and all colleagues in the oncologic field to participate fully in the forthcoming scientific discussions and debate. Let us do so in a spirit of introspection and reevaluation, so that together we may find the proper new approaches and discard what may not be appropriate in our effort to serve.

I wish to commend the men and women behind the Organizing Committee for the hard work, creativity and dedication that have made this Convention a reality. Likewise, my deepest gratitude to the membership for their continuous support of the Society and their enthusiastic involvement in all its endeavors.

MABUHAY. May God keep us always enlightened and united in purpose.

RAFAEL S. CLAUDIO, MD
Vice President and Overall Chairman
Organizing Committee

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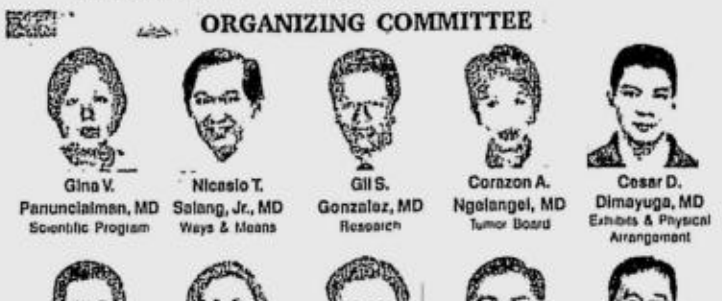

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Aileen Riego-Javier, MD — Awards
Juanita Lu-Lim, MD — Publications
Romulo S. De Villa, MD, PhD — Scientific Journal
Genara A. Manuel-Limson, MD — Nominations & Election

AWARDEES

Antonio H. Villalon, MD — Outstanding Oncologist
Corazon A. Ngelangel, MD — Outstanding Teacher
Cecilia Ladines-Llave, MD — Outstanding Cancer Researcher
Ma. Victoria M. Abesamis, MD — Community Service Awardee

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

Day 1, Wednesday, October 27, 2004

7:00 AM REGISTRATION
8:30 – 9:45 AM OPENING CEREMONIES
- INTRODUCTION OF THE KEYNOTE SPEAKER — Elizabeth Y Arcellana-Nuqui, MD, Immediate Past President, Philippine Society of Oncologists, Inc.
- KEYNOTE ADDRESS — Ms Regina Paz L Lopez, Managing Director, ABS CBN Foundation
- OPENING OF EXHIBITS
- COFFEE BREAK
- PLENARY LECTURE
  Modern Oncology in a Developing Country
  Antonio H Villalon, MD, Past President, Philippine Society of Medical Oncology, Philippine Society of Oncologists, Inc. and Philippine College of Physicians
- MODULE I: CANCER PREVENTION AND EARLY DETECTION
  Philippine Cancer Profile through the Years: What the Trends Tell Us
  Corazon A Ngelangel, MD, Chief, Section of Medical Oncology, UP-PGH Medical Center
  Cancer Genetic Screening and Counselling for Populations at Risk
  Romulo S de Villa, MD, PhD, President, Molecular Oncology Society of the Philippines
- OPEN FORUM — Chair: Enrico D Tangco, MD; Co-chair: Josefino C Ona, MD
- LUNCH SYMPOSIUM
  Anemia in Cancer (Macrophama)
  Romina A Danguilan, MD, Chief of the Peritoneal Dialysis National Kidney & Transplant Institute
- BUSINESS MEETING
- *Breast Cancer: Risk Identification and Preemptive Intervention*
  Alejandro C. Dizon, MD, Head, Breast Clinic, St Luke's Medical Center
- *Lung Cancer: New Strategies for a Smoke-Free Environment*
  Ma Encarnita Blanco-Limpin, MD, President, PCAP Pulmonology, Philippine Heart Center
- *Cervical Cancer: New Screening and Prevention Guidelines*
  Rafael S Tomacruz, MD, Training Officer, Section of Gynecologic Oncology, UP-PGH Medical Center
- OPEN FORUM & COFFEE BREAK — Chair: Cecilia L. Llave, MD; Co-Chair: Chita N Maluneg, MD
- *Prevention, Diagnosis and Treatment of Metabolic Complications in Cancer Patients*
  Jasmin R Igama, MD, President, Philippine Society of Medical Oncology
- *Chemoprevention of Common Cancers*
  Gina V. Panuncialman, MD, Chief, Section of Hematology – Oncology, UST Hospital
- *Hepatocellular Carcinoma: Current Trends in Prevention and Early Recognition*
  Juliet G Cervantes MD, Head, Center for Liver Diseases, St Luke's Medical Center
- OPEN FORUM — Chair: Jonathan M Asprer, MD; Co-chair: Felma R. Masodac-Adeluin, MD
- FELLOWSHIP NIGHT (Dabur Pharma Limited & Macropharma)

DAY 2, Thursday, October 28, 2004

- PSO Research Forum
- MODULE II: CANCER DIAGNOSIS
  The Use of Imaging Studies in Cancer Diagnosis
  Kenneth T. Tan, MD, Director, MRI Center, Cardinal Santos Medical Center
  Prevention of Cancer Cachexia
  Jonathan M Asprer, MD, President, Philippine Society for Parenteral & Enteral Nutrition, President, Philippine Society of Oncologists
- OPEN FORUM — Chair: Nelia S Tan-Liu, MD; Co-Chair: Luzviminda S. Kwong, MD
- Interactive Panel Case Discussion
  Metastatic Cancer, Tracking the Unknown Primary
  Medical Oncology
  Maria Barbara M Domingo, MD, Consultant, Section of Medical Oncology, Makati Medical Center
  Pathology
  Rolando A. Lopez, MD, Dean, Faculty of Medicine & Surgery, UST Hospital
  Diagnostic Radiology
  Eugene C Dy, MD, Head, Dept. of Radiology, Philippine Orthopedic Center
  Open Forum Moderator: Divina B. Esteban, MD
- LUNCH SYMPOSIUM
  Compassion Based Medicine: The Prime Importance of Doctor-Patient Relationship
  Eugene F Ramos, MD, VP-General Manager, Biomedis Inc.
- MODULE III: CANCER TREATMENT
  Novel Treatment in Oncology
  Targeted Cancer Therapy: Benefits and Limits
  Gerardo H. Cornelio, MD, Head, Therapeutic Unit & Tumor Board, San Juan de Dios Hospital
  Latest Advances in Radiation Oncology
  Hirohiko Tsuju, MD, PhD, Director, National Institute of Radiological Sciences, Chiba Japan
  Immunotherapy in Oncology
  Beatrice J. Tiangco, MD, Section Chief, Sections of Medical Oncology & Hematology, Capitol Medical Center
- OPEN FORUM — Chair: Miriam Joy C Calaguas, MD; Co-chair: Elsie M Dimaano, MD
- TUMOR BOARD CONTEST
- DINNER SYMPOSIUM
  The Prevalence and Impact of Weight Loss among Cancer Patients
  Mark A. Perner, MD, Associate Medical Director, Abbott Laboratories, Abbott Park, Illinois

Day 3, Friday, October 29, 2004

- BREAKFAST SYMPOSIUM
  St Luke's Medical Center – Boracay 1 & 2
  Updates in the Treatment of Brain Metastasis
  Manuel M. Mariano, MD, Director, Institute of Neurosciences
  Beatrice J. Tiangco, MD, Medical Team Member, Blood & Marrow Transplant Program
  Miriam Joy C Calaguas, MD, Chairperson, Department of Radiation Oncology
- Symposium on Oncologic Emergencies
  Neurologic Emergencies
  Maryelyn D. Gose, MD, President, Pain Society of the Philippines
  General Surgical Emergencies
  Renato R. Montenegro, MD, Head, Residency & Fellowship Committee, UST Hospital
  Orthopaedic Emergencies
  Cesar D. Dimayuga, MD, Head, Musculoskeletal Tumor Unit, UP-PGH Medical Center
- OPEN FORUM — Chair: Juanita Lu-Lim, MD; Co-chair: Maria Luz U. Del Rosario, MD
- New Strategies in Adjuvant Therapy
  Taxanes in Breast Cancer
  Editha DF de Villa, MD, Consultant, Section of Medical Oncology, Cardinal Santos Medical Center
  Chemoradiotherapy for Cervical Cancer
  Hirohiko Tsuji, MD, PhD, Director, National Institute of Radiological Sciences, Chiba Japan
  Adjuvant Treatment for Prostatic Cancer
  Jason L. Lutan, MD, Chief, Section of Urology, Dept. of Surgery, Cardinal Santos Medical Center
  Multimodality Management of Musculoskeletal Sarcomas
  Edward H. Wang, MD, President, Philippine Musculoskeletal Tumor Society
- OPEN FORUM — Chair: Romeo R. Fernandez, MD; Co-chair: John Melden M. Cruz, MD
- LUNCH SYMPOSIUM
  Issues in the Management of Cancer Pain (ADP Pharma)
  Henry Y. Lu, MD, Vice President, Pain Society of the Philippines
- Miscellaneous Issues in Oncology
  Multimodality Approach to Head & Neck Tumors
  Alfredo Y. Pontejos, MD, Chairman, Department of ENT, Manila Doctors Hospital
  Evidence-Based Clinical Practice Guidelines for Curable Rectal Cancer (Public Forum)
  Armando C. Crisostomo, MD, Chief, Division of Colorectal Surgery, Dept. of Surgery, UP-PGH Medical Center
  Histopathologic Indices for Treatment Monitoring and Prognostication
  Ronaldo L. Zamuco, MD, Active Associate Consultant, Dept. of Laboratories, Makati Medical Center
  Advances in the Treatment of Skin Malignancies
  Glenn Angelo S. Gerilla, MD, Consultant, Division of Plastic Surgery, Dept. of Surgery, UP-PGH Medical Center
- OPEN FORUM — Chair: Ray B. Maliray, MD; Co-chair: Jorge G. Ignacio, MD
  Current Trends in the Management of Adult Hematologic Malignancies
  Honorata G. Bayton, MD, Head, Blood & Marrow Transplant Center, St. Luke's Medical Center
  New Issues in the Management of Childhood Solid Tumors
  Ma. Victoria M. Abesamis, MD, Chair, Department of Pediatrics, East Avenue Medical Center
  Current Treatment of Psychiatric Disorders in Cancer Patients
  Ma. Rocio S. Valdez-Cabio, MD, Program Coordinator, Psychosocial Support Group, St. Luke's Medical Center
- OPEN FORUM — Chair: Elton J. Domingo, MD; Co-chair: Joselito P. Cruz, MD
- CLOSING CEREMONIES (ADP Pharma & Yamanouchi Phils.)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Over 6,000 Filipino workers now in Iraq

By Cynthia D. Balana

DESPITE the government's ban on the deployment of Filipino workers to Iraq, a total of 6,053 of them have made it into the war-torn country.

This was revealed by Rep. Rolando Andaya (LP, Camarines Sur), chair of the House committee on appropriations, which is conducting hearings on the proposed budget of the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Andaya said the DFA admitted that about 25 percent of the total number of Filipino workers in Iraq may have been recruited illegally.

"These are the Filipinos who managed to skirt the government's ban on their deployment to the most dangerous country in the world today," he said. *"Ang Pilipinong nagigipit, kahit sa* Iraq *kakapit (The desperate Filipino would even cling onto Iraq)."*

Andaya said this could mean there were now more Filipinos in Baghdad than in Basco, Batanes. Batanes is the northernmost province of the Philippines and the most typhoon-ravaged each year, hence, not many people live there.

Filipinos are spread out in at least eight areas in Iraq, including Fallujah, Nasiriyah and even deposed Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit.

Based on the DFA's latest count, there are 2,500 Filipinos in Camp Victory; 1,450 in Camp Anaconda; 1,000 in Camp Cooke (Taji); 400 in Mosul; 300 in Tikrit; 52 in Baquba; 51 in Nasiriya, and 300 in Fallujah, Ramadi, Al-Assad and Sadr City.

Andaya said most of the Filipinos were working in US camps like Victory and Anaconda, which are secure, doing support work for the American military.

He said the DFA figures did not include Filipino drivers who dash in and out of Iraq from surrounding countries in supply convoys escorted by US soldiers.

During the last hearing on the DFA budget, Andaya asked department officials why civilian American workers were getting paid $80,000 to $100,000 for a year's work in Iraq, while Filipinos facing the same risks were paid much less at $12,000 per year.

FAREWELL TO A GRANDFATHER EDWIN BACASMAS

The grandchildren of former Supreme Court Justice Enrique Fernando led by James Fernando Cameron, 8, left, lay flowers at his grave during interment rites at the Libingan ng mga Bayani yesterday. Fernando served during the regime of Ferdinand Marcos. Behind is former first lady Imelda Marcos.

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BAGUIO PINES GARDEN VILLAS

By Jerome Aning

THE DEPARTMENT of Labor and Employment reported on Friday that the Philippines has signed 42 bilateral labor agreements with 37 countries hosting overseas Filipino workers since President Macapagal-Arroyo assumed office in 2001.

The agency wants more BLAs forged to ensure the protection, welfare and competitiveness of the more than eight million OFWs worldwide, said Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas.

In the land-based sector, six accords are in force and provide for the welfare and employment of land-based OFWs in the technical, medical, information and communications technology fields in five major host economies, namely, the United Kingdom, South Korea, Taiwan, Norway and Switzerland.

The OFWs covered by the accords are protected from exorbitant placement fees and illegal recruiters.

In the maritime sector, Department of Labor and Employment accomplished 36 agreements with 31 countries worldwide in compliance with the regulations of the International Maritime Organization's standards on training, certification and watchkeeping, Sto. Tomas said.

She said the maritime accords recognizing Filipino seafarers' certificates attest to the world-class standards and excellence of Filipino workers who account for 20 percent of the world's seamen.

According to Department of Labor and Employment's International Labor Affairs Service, the 31 countries and territories that signed an agreement with the Philippines between 2001 and 2004 for the recognition of seafarers' certificates were: Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Brunei, Cambodia, Cyprus, Denmark, Dominica, Georgia, Greece, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Ireland, Isle of Man, Italy, Kuwait, Liberia, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mongolia, Norway, Panama, Singapore, Sweden, the Netherlands and Vanuatu.

"These accords have been forged in line with the thrust of the present administration that prioritizes the OFWs," Sto. Tomas said.

Lawmaker scores Napolcom silence

By Cynthia D. Balana

ZAMBOANGA del Sur Rep. Antonio Cerilles yesterday questioned the National Police Commission's seeming lack of interest in investigating anomalies and allegations of corruption in the Philippine National Police.

Cerilles reminded Napolcom that Republic Act No. 8551, or the PNP Reform and Reorganization Act, of which he was one of the principal authors, empowered it to investigate anomalies and irregularities in the police force.

"Amid calls for lifestyle checks on police officers and reports of alleged anomalies involving the conversion of funds, the cashing of checks of suspended, dismissed and deceased policemen, and the placing of a seized Jaguar sedan in the custody of a police general, the Napolcom has surprisingly been silent," Cerilles said.

With the mandate of Napolcom, he said, the police force should not rely solely on its Internal Affairs Service (IAS) to investigate erring policemen.

Like Napolcom, however, the IAS has been getting flak for being a toothless watchdog, Cerilles said.

"We want to know what Napolcom has done in terms of investigating anomalies in the PNP and making recommendations to eradicate the problems," he said.

The same law mandates Napolcom to render to the President and to Congress an annual report on its activities and accomplishments.

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DSWD exec convicted of graft

By Philip C. Tubeza

FOR BUYING second-hand typewriters instead of new ones, they got fairly long prison terms.

The Supreme Court has upheld the conviction for graft of a former assistant regional director of the Department of Social Welfare and Development who approved the anomalous purchase of more than P200,000 worth of typewriters.

In a 13-page decision, the tribunal affirmed the Sandiganbayan ruling convicting former DSWD Cagayan Assistant Regional Director Rosalia M. Dugayon and her accomplice, Jesse G. Callangan, for violating the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act.

"(Dugayon) accepted the second-hand typewriters, contrary to the requirement to buy brand new units, and allowed payment for them at the price of brand new units," the tribunal said in a decision penned by Associate Justice Leonardo Quisumbing.

"Without hesitation, we find that this transaction defrauded and caused injury to the government," it said.

Dugayon and Callangan, who supplied the typewriters, were each sentenced to from six to nine years in prison and ordered to jointly indemnify the government P97,690.

The court said the government paid P239,490 for the typewriters when the actual cost of the "rebuilt/reconditioned" ones was only P141,800.

A third accused, supply officer Rogelio Hipolito, is still at large.

Dugayon was also perpetually disqualified from holding public office.

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LGU road show earns plaudits

INTERIOR Secretary Angelo Reyes recently commended the Philippines-Canada Local Government Support Program (LSGP) for organizing Governance Expo 2004.

Reyes described the expo as "the first of its kind in the Philippines, as it showcases the innovations, strategies, tools and technologies introduced and utilized by outstanding local government units, as well as government and non-government agencies engaged in promoting and instituting good local governance."

He noted that "exemplary and replicable practices of local government units highlighted in the expo are a confirmation of local government capacities and the impact they have made in the lives of their constituents."

The expo is a four-site road show of exhibits-cum-fora showcasing the achievements and contributions of the LSGP and its LGU partners, as well as other government and non-government institutions, toward good governance and nation-building.

The next expo will be at the Grand Caprice Hotel in Cagayan de Oro City on Oct. 28-29.

Among the highlights will be the launching of the Local Governance Performance Management System (LGPMS) in the region; a policy forum on participatory governance; a Lakbay Aral tour to Naawan, Lanao del Norte; a dialogue on the executive and legislative agenda being formulated by local officials all over the country, and lectures on the replicable practices of LGUs.

The expo will wind up at the Davao Convention Center in Davao City on Nov. 9-10. The highlight will be the awarding of the Kaagapay Seal of Excellence in Local Governance.

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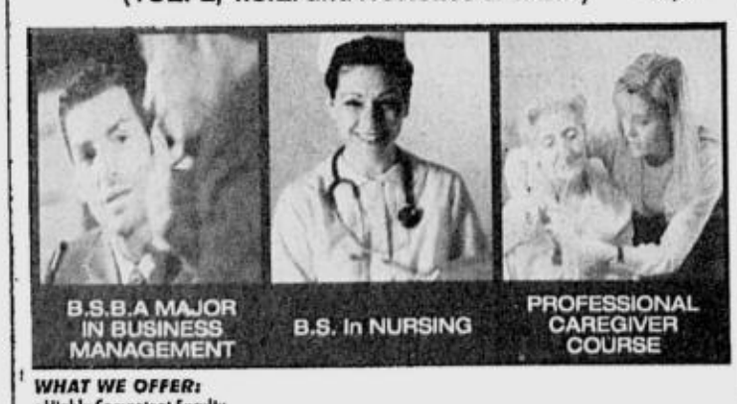

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15 November	Update in Remedial Law (Procedural Law)	Three (3) (9:00-12:00)	Justice Hilarion L. Aquino
	Corporate Rehabilitation (Substantive Law)	Three (3) (1:30-4:30)	Atty. Manuel D. Yngson, Jr.
16 November	Update in Legal Ethics	Three (3) (9:00-12:00)	Justice Jose L. Sabio, Jr.
	Legal Writing and Oral Advocacy	Four (4) (1:00-5:00)	Justice Hugo E. Gutierrez
17 November	Ethical Aspects of Government Procurement (Legal Ethics)	Three (3) (9:00-12:00)	Prof. Bartolome C. Fernandez
	ADR Act of 2004 (ADR)	Two (2) (1:00-3:00)	Prof. Alfredo F. Tadiar
	Update in Civil Procedure (Procedural Law)	Three (3) (3:15-6:15)	Justice Romulo V. Borja
18 November	Anti-Money Laundering Act (MCLE Prescribed)	Three (3) (9:00-12:00)	Atty. Celia E. Sandejas
	International Law	Two (2) (1:00-3:00)	Prof. Henry L. Roque
	ADR at the Workplace (ADR)	Three (3) (3:15-6:15)	Dean Froilan M. Bacungan
19 November	Recent Developments in Family Law (MCLE Prescribed)	Three (3) (9:00-12:00)	Prof. Danilo L. Concepcion
	Pre-Trial and Trial Skills	Four (4) (1:00-5:00)	Justice Lucas P. Bersamin

*Schedules are subject to change without prior notice. Kindly confirm lecture schedules prior to registration and attendance
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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (CRIMINAL PROCEDURE)—Waiver of constitutional safeguard against double jeopardy in appeals from trial court convictions—An appeal from the sentence of the trial court implies a waiver of the constitutional safeguard against double jeopardy and throws the whole case open to a review by the appellate court. The latter is then called upon to render judgment as law and justice dictate, whether favorable or unfavorable to the appellant. This is the risk involved when the accused decides to appeal a sentence of conviction. Indeed, appellate courts have the power to reverse, affirm or modify the judgment of the lower court and to increase or reduce the penalty it imposed. If the present appeal is given course, the whole case against the accused-employee becomes open to review. It thus follows that a penalty higher than that which has already been imposed by the trial court may be meted out to him. Petitioner's appeal would thus violate his right against double jeopardy, since the judgment against him could become subject to modification without his consent. We are not in a position to second-guess the reason why the accused effectively waived his right to appeal by jumping bail. It is clear, though, that petitioner may not appeal without violating his right against double jeopardy. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Panganiban, First Division, Philippine Rabbit Bus Lines, Inc. vs People, G. R. No. 147703, April 14, 2004]

By R. B. Vera

Tribe seeks end to mining on holy mount

By Norman Bordadora

MEMBERS of the Subanon tribe yesterday called on President Macapagal-Arroyo to order a Canadian firm to stop its mining operations on a Zamboanga del Norte mountain that they hold sacred.

Timuay Jose Anoy, leader of the Subanon tribe, said the group was a signatory to the Indigenous People's Rights Act (Ipra) and had been awarded a Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title covering their settlement on Mt. Canatuan in Siocon, Zamboanga del Norte.

The Subanons have been living on Mt. Canatuan since the 17th century.

"We entered into the Ipra and were awarded a certificate of ancestral domain title. Thus, we cannot understand why the government is allowing Toronto Ventures Inc. to operate [there]," Anoy said at a news conference in Quezon City yesterday.

Anoy said the mining firm had desecrated the Subanon's "altar" and its most sacred spot, the peak of Mt. Canatuan.

"(Toronto Ventures)... has no respect for our people and our way of life. They bulldozed the tip of the mountain, destroyed our most holy place, and in a matter of weeks, our community will be wiped out due to their mad drive for gold," Anoy said.

The tribal leader said they had met with officials of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples, and the Commission on Human Rights to demand a stop to the mining operations.

"But our appeals have been ignored by these agencies that are supposed to protect our community and environment," he said.

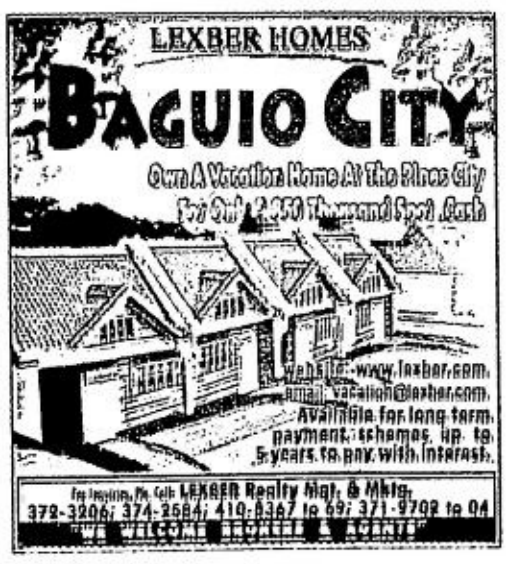
Stingray to boost tourism—Ace

TOURISM Secretary Joseph Ace Durano yesterday said the Philippine Navy's increased patrols around coastal and island resort areas would boost tourism, even as the country struggles to dispel perceptions it is a terrorist haven.

Durano said Task Force Stingray, launched last week, was an example of his "coordinate leadership" policy, which intends to involve other government agencies in boosting tourism.

"We are protecting the reality that our country's breathtaking and impressive destinations are safe and secure, affording local and foreign tourists the freedom of movement and activities that will make their stay more exceptional and memorable, since we are after all the friendliest and most hospitable country in Asia," he said.

The task force would provide the Department of Tourism with periodic intelligence and security assessment reports on coastal and island resort destinations in relation to its task of "proactive naval and maritime intelligence operations" that include the physical inspection of these travel destinations. *Jerome Aning*



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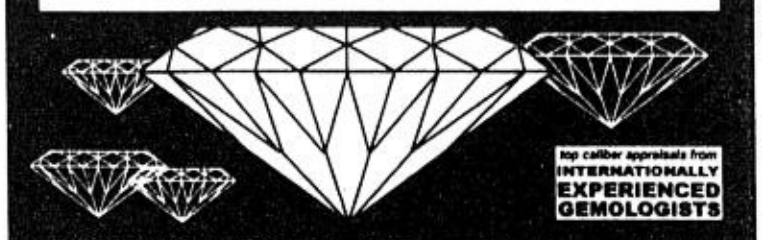

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Sunday, October 24, 2004
30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Sir 35:12-14, 16-18

The Lord is judge and shows no partiality. He will not disadvantage the poor, he who hears the prayer of the oppressed. He does not disdain the plea of the orphan, nor the complaint of the widow. The one who serves God wholeheartedly will be heard; his petition will reach the clouds. The prayer of the humble person pierces the clouds, and he is not consoled until he has been heard. His prayer will not cease until the Most High has looked down, until justice has been done in favor of the righteous.

2nd Reading: 2 Tim 4:6-8, 16-18

As for me, I am already poured out as a libation, and the moment of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness with which the Lord, the just judge, will reward me on that day; and not only me, but all those who have longed for his glorious coming.

At my first hearing in court no one supported me; all deserted me. May the Lord not hold it against them. But the Lord was at my side, giving me strength to proclaim the Word fully, and let all the pagans hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will save me from all evil, bringing me to his heavenly kingdom. Glory to him for ever and ever. Amen!

Gospel: Lk 18:9-14

Jesus told another parable to some persons fully convinced of their own righteousness, who looked down on others, "Two men went up to the Temple to pray; one was a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood by himself and said: 'I thank you, God, that I am not like other people, grasping, crooked, adulterous, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give the tenth of all my income to the Temple.'

"In the meantime the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast saying: 'O God, be merciful to me, a sinner.'

"I tell you, when this man went down to his house, he had been set right with God, but not the other. For whoever makes himself out to be great will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be raised."

Commentary

The Greek word from which we derive "hypocrite" means "to play a part." From there it came to mean an actor in a play. And from there it came to mean anyone who is insincere in speech or action. Incidentally the word "person" also has a stage connection. This one came from Latin, per (through) and sonare (to sound). In ancient times actors wore masks over their faces, and "spoke through" them. In this strict sense, every person is capable of being an actor hiding his or her real self and displaying a mask that makes them look like a great hero or a god. Words change their meaning with the centuries, but human nature doesn't seem to change very much.

Jesus didn't hesitate to throw around the word "hypocrite"-presumably because it was the right one! I counted fifteen times he used it in the gospels. "Woe to you, Scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites!" The Scribes were the experts in the interpretation of religious law; the Pharisees, in close alliance with them, saw religion as observance of law. In the heat of controversy Jesus told them they were like "whited sepulchres, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of dead men's bones and everything unclean" (Mt 23:27).

The stuff that went into the making of the Pharisees is still universally available! We have to say to ourselves, "Thou art that man!"

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AFP's golden parachute could reach ₱300M

From page A1

fund of at least P200 million that he could channel to priority areas of his choice.

"That's true. And I sent it back to the field," he told the INQUIRER.

"The chief of staff can use it for the troops or for himself, and no one has the right to question or even be surprised by his decisions," the retired general said.

Abaya, who was named chief of staff on April 16, 2003, will retire on his 56th birthday on Oct. 29. Gen. Efren Abu has been named as his replacement.

According to Rear Admiral Mateo Mayuga, AFP chief of personnel, a retiring four-star general receives more than P2 million in retirement benefits.

The "pabaon" system started in the late 1990s but reached hundred-million-peso proportions when President Macapagal-Arroyo implemented her so-called "revolving-door policy" in the appointment of military chiefs, the sources (two retired generals and five colonels from the Air Force, Army and Navy) told the INQUIRER.

From March 2001 to April 2003, the AFP had a succession of four chiefs of staff who served a tour of duty ranging from a minimum of 69 days to a maximum of nine months.

Gen. Diomedio Villanueva assumed the post on March 28, 2001, replacing Gen. Angelo Reyes who was named defense secretary (and who is now interior secretary).

Villanueva was succeeded by Gen. Roy Cimatu, who served for three months; Gen. Benjamin Defensor, 69 days, and Gen. Dionisio Santiago, also three months.

Arrival bonus

One of the retired generals said that at the height of the "revolving-door policy," one incoming chief of staff "had the gall to demand an arrival bonus."

The source said the money was hastily raised from contractors and "conversions." It amounted to "about P300 million," said the brigade-level colonel in Mindanao.

"When I saw them on television, I had a good laugh," he said in disgust.

A standard practice is called "RTS" (for "return to sender"), which can only be done in cahoots with officers in charge of fund management, the Army colonel said.

At his discretion

"All they do is send a notice that a division has been allocated P10 million, for instance. The order is, 'Please clear this.' So we clear the check through conversion and send the money back to GHQ (general headquarters)," he said, adding:

"They cannot touch the intelligence fund because that is dedicated money. They have learned to tap other sources."

Even the report of the Feliciano Commission, which was formed to study the roots of the Oakwood mutiny last year, noted the possibility that the military chiefs might have dipped into the contingency fund for their personal use.

Garcia testimony

Ironically, the existence of the contingency fund was testified to by Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia before the Feliciano Commission on Aug. 29, 2003.

Testifying as AFP comptroller, Garcia said that in 2003, the military had P4.4 billion in centrally managed funds (CMF) from the P9.1 billion maintenance operating expense budget.

"The CMF may partly or wholly be treated as contingency funds (CF) by the commander and disbursed at his discretion to support other requirements not foreseen or specifically included in the regular budget program of the major service units," the Feliciano Commission report said.

Garcia was quoted in the report as saying the CMF/CF was advantageous to the military because it allowed the chief of staff the flexibility "to channel resources to priority areas."

"Not surprisingly, a significant portion of the [CF] may wind up as personal assets (e.g., cars, house and lot, etc.) or in the personal bank account of a commander," the Feliciano Commission report said.

'Sharing your blessings is not a crime,' says AFP supplier

From page A1

rectly talked to people from the Procurement Office, which determines the needs of the different military commands. In the case of the AFP, these are the N-4, G-4 and J-4 offices, she said.

The trick is to find out beforehand what commands have budget allocations for specific needs, the supplier said.

"There is a process that has to be followed, there is a bidding. You will be asked about your papers, the capability of your company will be looked into," she said.

A matter of timing

"Negotiated contracts happen only if you are the exclusive distributor, specially if the needs are urgent. For example, if there is a calamity, there are needs that have to be immediately addressed. If there is no specific allocation, that is when the so-called 'conversion' comes in."

She was referring to the practice among officers of converting check payments for supplies into cash, some of which end up in their pockets.

What about the PR money, or the SOP? When does it come to play? Do you give it before or after the deal?

It's not a bribe

Release of the PR money is determined by the contract itself, according to the supplier.

If the contract stays untouched on the desk of a signatory, the PR money is released before the actual awarding of the contract.

If the contract is fastracked and approved at once by all the signatories, the PR money is still released, according to this supplier, to show "gratitude" to those who processed your paper.

"Hindi nila hinihingi iyon. Kusang ibinibigay ng supplier at kadalasan, hindi na ito tinitignan na lagay" the supplier explained. *"Nagiging normal dahil sa sistema na rin sa transaksiyon sa gobyerno."* (They do not ask for it. It is freely given to them by the supplier and, often, it is not looked upon as a bribe. It has become normal practice because of the system of transactions in the government).

The supplier does not mind treating the entire staff of the procurement office to lunch. She defended such action as part and parcel of the Filipino culture of "utang na loob" (debt of gratitude).

Camaraderie pays off

"Sometimes the signatory is not around, maybe he is in a conference. People left and right have to sign the papers and the supplier cannot find them. That is when camaraderie with the staff pays off," she said. "When the official arrives, they will make sure he signs the papers. We look at PR money as goodwill. It is not a bribe and they don't ask for it."

It is like giving a birthday blowout, the supplier said.

Some of the contacts of this supplier were lieutenants and captains in the '70s. Most of them are generals now, still active, but some had retired, she said.

The supplier said that compared to the martial law years, there was more red tape now when dealing with the AFP.

"Then, there was always money, the funds were always there, especially because then we were getting aid from the United States because of the US bases," she said. "If they said the funds were available, they would issue you a check at once."

"Now ... you have many people to talk to. Your papers have to go through many hands and there is more red tape. They said that it is transparency. But the truth is, to us suppliers, it only means that we need to have a bigger PR budget."

Patience is virtue

Sometimes, she said, payment could take years.

"You really need patience in transactions with the government, especially in these recent years. It is so hard to collect. Even if the transactions have been completed, they keep saying there's still no money. But you remain patient. That's part of the business."

What about luck—how does it come into play?

The supplier recalled the early years when she began transacting business with the AFP. At that time, she was virtually unknown to the circle of officers involved with procurement.

One Sunday morning, lady luck kissed her.

She was in a supermarket when she bumped into a general who had her papers pending on his desk.

General holding hands with sexy lady

She saw the general first. He was holding hands with a very sexy lady who looked like someone from the movies.

"What should I do? Should I let myself be seen by them or should I avoid them."

That was her dilemma, said the supplier about the incident that spelled a big difference in her career as a military supplier.

"I decided to let them see me. I made sure that we would run into each other at the meat section of the supermarket," she said. "Then I said to him, 'Sir, how are you?' He turned pale. The girl attached to him like an anchor heard what I said. 'Don't worry, Sir,' I said. 'I didn't see a thing,'" the supplier said, savoring the memory.

The next day, the supplier was at the general's office.

Normally, she was the last of his callers to be entertained. Sometimes, she would even be told to come back the next day.

But that morning, she was the first to be allowed to see the general.

There was no mention of the chance encounter in the meat section.

All the general did was ask her if she needed her papers signed.

"Yes, sir, I hope so. I've been coming here for a month now," she recalled telling the general.

That same morning, the contract and her check were released.

"You didn't see anything?"

"Don't worry, sir, your secret is safe with me."

There was no PR money involved in that deal with the amorous general?

"He did not ask for anything," the supplier said. "But I did not forget. In gratitude, I bought him an expensive watch, the most expensive. It was a gift, not a bribe, to seal our friendship."

Pimentel warns GMA ...

From page A1

Forces, President Macapagal-Arroyo may be "ripe for another people power, or worse, a coup."

The warning was aired yesterday by Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr., who earlier said he had received information on the supposed CIA hand in the corruption case against Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia.

"The hand of America is here, and it is a signal to Gloria (Ms Arroyo) that things are not well between her administration and the Americans," Pimentel said in an interview at the Westin Philippine Plaza hotel in Pasay City, where the Senate was holding a two-day strategic planning workshop.

"A weakened presidency is always ripe for the shoving," he said.

Pimentel said the only way for Ms Arroyo to keep the presidency was to ensure that Garcia and whoever "plundered the money" of the soldiers were punished.

Trashing PDI

"That's about the only way she can get popular support to keep her in power. Since she has no support outside, she can get the support here," the senator said.

Pimentel's remarks on Friday about the alleged CIA connection, as reported yesterday in the INQUIRER, prompted US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone to trash his copy of the newspaper.

"I saw the headline. I didn't read it. I tossed [the INQUIRER] aside. It didn't make sense to me," Ricciardone said hours after attending ceremonies marking the 106th foundation anniversary of the Philippine Military Academy in Baguio City.

He added: "I cannot imagine how anyone can see a CIA connection. Our own view is that [the corruption scandal] is God-sent in a way. Allegations come and go, and things don't change. Here we hear a very serious set of allegations coming out, and the AFP reacting very responsibly, with great determination to do something about it.

"I believe this time [the Philippine government's response to corruption] is for real, and this country is going to reach its tipping point where you have honesty breaking out. [This problem and its solutions] could be historic. I have confidence in this country."

Asked to comment on Pimentel's remarks, AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Narciso Abaya said: "I'm not aware of any conspiracy theory."

It doesn't matter

Malacañang's position regarding Pimentel's remarks is that it didn't matter where the information on Garcia's unexplained wealth came from.

"What is important is what the government is doing to address the allegations, and it is very clear that the government is determined to unearth the truth, prosecute the offenders and clear the names of those who were not involved," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said in an interview with RMN radio.

Bunye said the Arroyo administration was committed to pursue the case against Garcia and come up with a credible result. He said three investigations were ongoing—by the Ombudsman, the House of Representatives and the military.

He also pointed out that it was Filipino journalist Jarius Bondoc who exposed the case of Garcia's two sons who were held in San Francisco by US customs authorities for not declaring $100,000 they were carrying during a trip last December.

Bunye would not directly comment on Pimentel's statement that the CIA blew the whistle on Garcia because the US government was angered by Ms Arroyo's decision to pull the Philippine contingent from Iraq.

"The President has explained her decision on [Filipino hostage] Angelo de la Cruz and she said it was consistent with our national interest. She said she is not apologizing for her decision. If there was a misunderstanding, we believe this will pass," Bunye said.

He said the Philippines and the United States had "a long history."

"This relationship matures, and we continue to pursue our goal of being active in the fight against terrorism," he said.

Possible plot

Pimentel said it was possible that the CIA, or other US agencies, could orchestrate a plot to overthrow Ms Arroyo and replace her with another official to keep the Philippines a "loyal ally."

He pointed out that the CIA was involved in the downfall of presidents of Latin American countries in the 1970s, and also helped overthrow the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos in 1986.

Asked whether RP-US relations were beyond repair, Pimentel said: "I would not say so because the US needs us. There's no question about that. The US needs us because of the cliché that we are strategically located. It can't say, 'We will let go of the Philippines.' So, either they repair the problem with Gloria, [or] if they feel that it is beyond repair, then Gloria is in big trouble."

Pimentel was skeptical that the tide would turn in Ms Arroyo's favor should Sen. John Kerry win the US presidential election next month.

Democrats kinder to RP

"Well, the Democrats in general have always... treated us with more compassion than the Republicans," Pimentel said. "But when it comes to US policies, the best interest of the Americans, whether Democrats or Republicans, will be their top priority. If they feel that Gloria has become a liability, whether it's Kerry or [US President George W. Bush], they will dump her also."

Pimentel suggested that Ms Arroyo be forthright in the corruption scandal and sanction Garcia accordingly.

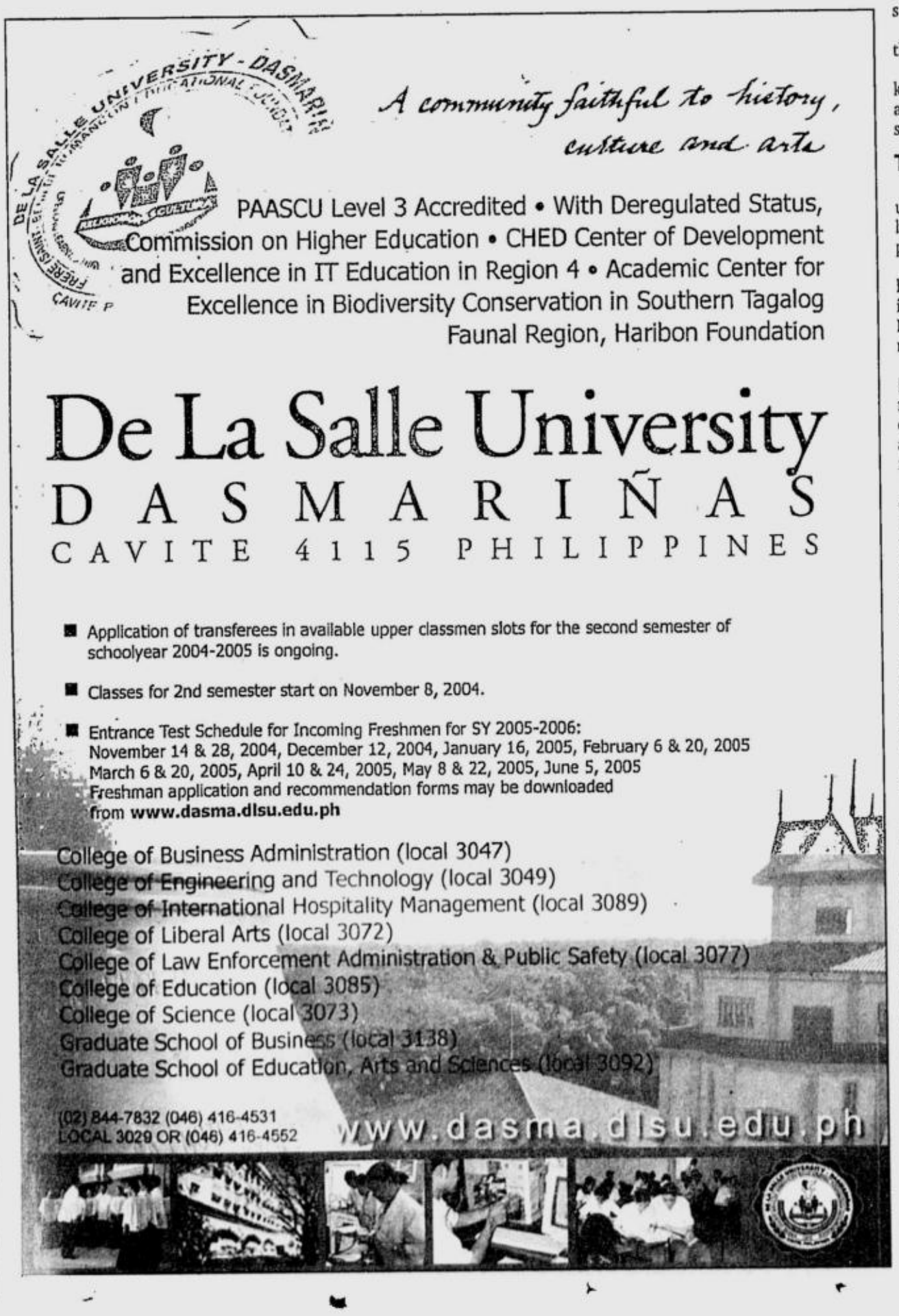
"One of the things that seems to inhibit such an action is the deafening silence, or the frustrating inaction, of her own secretary of national defense, Nonong Cruz," Pimentel said.

He said Cruz has maintained a "sphinx-like silence" toward the issue "in spite of the fact that what is happening in the Armed Forces today is definitely a part of his turf."

Ricciardone himself warned the government against a whitewash in the ongoing investigations.

"The opposite [of US support for the government], I'm afraid, is also true," he said. "To pretend that this is something to be overlooked, to be swept under the rug, then I think you'll find foreign confidence, as well as our confidence, shaken."

But Ricciardone dismissed speculation that the corruption scandal would hamper the US government's commitment to support the modernization of the AFP. *With a report from Juliet Labog-Javellana*



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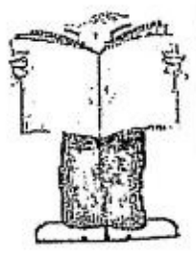

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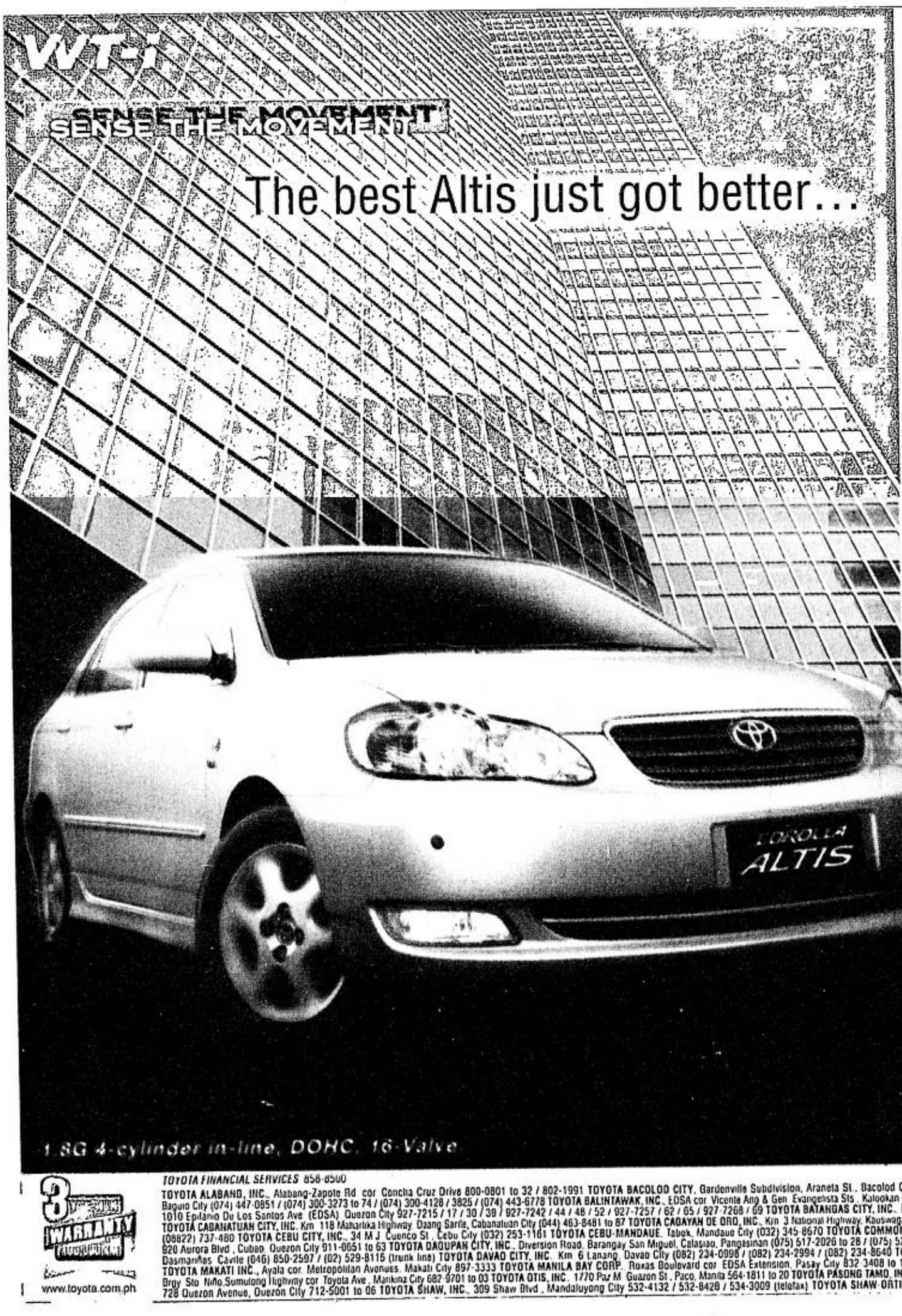

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

UK hostage pleads for life, begs London to leave Iraq

By Robert H. Reid

BAGHDAD—Trembling, haggard and weeping into a tissue, Margaret Hassan, the kidnapped British aid worker who has spent nearly half her life delivering food and medicine in Iraq, begged Britain to help save her by withdrawing its troops, saying these "might be my last hours."

The gaunt, 59-year-old woman's wrenching, televised statement Friday—delivered between sobs—puts new political pressure on Prime Minister Tony Blair's government, a day after it agreed to a US request to transfer 850 British soldiers from southern Iraq to the Baghdad area to free American forces for new offensives against insurgents.

"Please help me, please help me," Hassan, who heads CARE International's operations in Iraq, said in a grainy videotape broadcast by Al-Jazeera television. "This might be my last hours. Please help me. Please, the British people, ask Mr. Blair to take the troops out of Iraq, and not to bring them here to Baghdad."

Blair's decision to redeploy the troops drew strong criticism from within his Labor party, and Hassan's desperate appeal is likely to stoke opposition among the British public, where support for the Iraq mission has never been as strong as in the United States.

"That's why people like Mr. Bigley and myself are being caught," Hassan said, referring to British hostage Kenneth Bigley, who was beheaded this month. "And maybe we will die like Mr. Bigley. Please, please, I beg of you."

Iraqi extremists have often subjected foreign hostages to such humiliating performances, exploiting their agony to win concessions from their employers or governments, stir up opposition to US-led operations in the country and win recruits from within the Muslim world.

HASSAN during appeal

Unlike most previous hostage tapes, however, this one featured no hooded gunmen, no banners identifying the militant group and no explicit demands for the captive's freedom. Al-Jazeera, the Qatar-based station, said it received the tape Friday but did not say where or how.

In an interview with Fox News, Iraqi Prime Minister Ayad Allawi called the Hassan kidnapping a "tragedy" but added: "Nobody is going to go for their demands... and give in to their demands."

"We have to to remain very strong and adamant that we should bring the terrorists to justice," Allawi said.

Hassan, who is married to an Iraqi, was seized by gunmen Tuesday in western Baghdad as she rode to work in her car. She appeared in the Friday tape wearing what appeared to be a robe or house dress. A tape released on the day of her abduction showed her wearing a white blouse with a round collar.

Evan F. Kohlmann, a terrorism expert in Washington, noted that Hassan was abducted after Britain and the United States refused to release women prisoners as demanded by Bigley's kidnappers.

Militants have kidnapped at least seven other foreign women over the past six months, and all were released. In September, Italian aid workers Simona Torretta and Simona Pari, both 29, were kidnapped from their Baghdad offices; they were freed three weeks later. *AP*

Quicker US citizenship for foreign-born kids

BUFFALO, New York—Emma Acebo, a 6-month-old girl who was born in Colombia, has been an American citizen since her adoptive parents brought her to New York last month.

But without proof of citizenship, foreign-born children cannot receive things like Social Security cards or passports. Emma's parents wouldn't even bring her to nearby Canada for fear that they would have trouble bringing her back to the United States.

"We would have been a little nervous," said Michele Acebo of Ontario, New York.

But on Friday, Emma received her citizenship papers during a celebration of the Child Citizenship Act Project, launched in January to speed documents to children while eliminating paperwork for parents.

Although the 2000 Child Citizenship Act made all foreign-born children US citizens at the time of their adoption, parents still had to submit an application for citizenship documents and wait up to 18 months for it to be processed.

The new project automatically delivers citizenship certificates to adopted children within 45 days of their arrival in the United States.

Americans adopted 21,100 children from other countries during the 12 months ending Sept. 30, 2002, government statistics show. The most foreign-born children came from China (6,062), followed by Russia (4,904), Guatemala (2,361), Korea (1,713) and Ukraine (1,093).

The state department is completing rules to certify agencies specializing in foreign adoptions, required under a treaty signed by some 190 countries. Countries agree to follow certain regulations on international adoptions, such as making sure the child to be adopted is an orphan or abandoned by parents, and that adults wishing to adopt have been checked out by their home countries.

State department spokesperson Stuart Patt has said all of the US rules needed under the treaty should be completed in 2005.

More than 11,500 citizenships have been processed through the Child Citizenship Act Project's Buffalo headquarters so far this year.

"Before, the process was fragmented throughout the country in a way that we were having inconsistent delivery of documentation," said Eduardo Aguirre, director of US Citizenship and Immigration Services, as dozens of small new citizens dug into cake after the ceremony. *AP*

IN THE KNOW

THE NEWS: Children adopted overseas now receive citizenship papers within 45 days of their arrival in America, rather than waiting up to 18 months.

WHY?: Without proof of citizenship, foreign-born children cannot receive things like Social Security cards or passports.

QUOTE: "It shows we've met all the criteria for these children to be citizens of the United States."—Debbie Lagree, who had to wait months for citizenship certificates for her children when she adopted them before the new program went into effect.

6.8 Tokyo earthquake kills 4, injures 300

TOKYO—Several powerful earthquakes rattled northwestern Japan over a span of two hours on Saturday, toppling and setting alight homes, causing blackouts, cutting water and gas services and derailing a bullet train. Media reported that four people had died and more than 300 others were injured.

The quakes—the first of which measured magnitude 6.8 and struck at 5:56 p.m. (0856 GMT)—were centered near Ojiya city about 20 km beneath the earth's surface, the Meteorological Agency said. Ojiya is in Niigata prefecture (state), about 260 km northwest of Tokyo.

At least a half dozen more tremors hit intermittently over two hours, including a magnitude 6.2 and 5.9 quake, the agency said. Some of the aftershocks were just as forceful.

"Strong aftershocks are continuing," agency official Masahiro Yamamoto told a televised news conference.

Two people in Ojiya—a 55-year-old man and another unidentified person—died at a hospital after being hit by falling rocks and other objects, NHK and Kyodo News reported. A 34-year-old man was struck by a falling wall as he fled his home in Tokamachi and later died, media said.

Late Saturday, NHK reported a fourth death but details were not immediately available.

Nearly 50 people were injured by flying glass or items that had fallen from shelves in Tokamachi and Ojiya cities, according to media reports. At least 250 others were reported injured—several seriously—in nearby towns and cities, including Nagaoka and Niigata, the reports said.

The jolt triggered an automatic safety device that temporarily halted train service, according to media reports. Railway officials said at least two trains, including a bullet train, had derailed and some of the cars had tipped over in Niigata prefecture, but nobody appeared to be hurt. *AP*

North Korea threatens to double nukes

SEOUL—North Korea threatened on Saturday to double the size of its nuclear deterrent if the United States did not drop what Pyongyang sees as a confrontational policy aimed at unseating the communist leadership there.

On Friday, North Korea set three conditions to be met before it would consider returning to six-party talks on its nuclear programs, including Washington ditching its "hostile policy."

The main newspaper in North Korea, the communist daily Rodong Sinmun, took this a stage further on Saturday in a commentary published by the official KCNA news agency.

"If the US persistently pursues its confrontational hostile policy towards the DPRK from the viewpoint of escapism, it will only compel the DPRK to double its deterrent force," the newspaper said. DPRK is short for the North's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

North Korea has never said how many nuclear weapons it has and usually refers ambiguously to its "deterrent force." US officials say the North could have between two and eight weapons.

The commentary said the root cause of the US policy was that Washington wanted to retain military influence in the region, even though the United States—unlike its regional partners—is a long way from Northeast Asia.

"This is a main source of trouble and a stumbling block in the way of settling the present situation," it said.

A senior state department official said Friday's North Korean statement was merely familiar rhetoric.

In addition to abandoning its hostile policy, a North Korean foreign ministry spokesperson told KCNA Washington should also be prepared to join a compensation package in return for the North freezing its nuclear programmes.

He said the United States must also accept its proposal to discuss what it called "South Korea's nuclear problem" first, referring to tests conducted in the South by scientists in the past that Seoul said had never been authorized. *Reuters*

With 10 days to go, Bush, Kerry go on stump frenzy

PUEBLO, Colorado—The US presidential rivals stepped up the already manic pace of their campaign marathon Saturday, just 10 days before the US election.

Democrat John Kerry was scheduled to woo Hispanic voters in the western states of Colorado and New Mexico Saturday, then cross two time zones for more appearances in the crucial state of Florida the following day.

President George W. Bush also faced a jammed schedule: four election rallies in Florida Saturday, then a 1,610-km trip west to spend the night at his ranch in Texas before stumping in New Mexico Sunday.

The rival candidates are locked in a desperate battle to win support in the 10 battleground states expected to decide the Nov. 2 election. Key among those is Florida, which has 27 of the 270 Electoral College votes needed to win the presidency and a too-close-to-call race.

In Reno, Nevada late Friday, Kerry accused Bush of trying to make the election about "just one issue," national security, but added that he was ready to wrestle.

"Let's talk about what happened when you let Osama bin Laden escape in Afghanistan, let's talk about what happened when we had the world's number one terrorist cornered in the mountains of Tora Bora," he told a rally at the University of Nevada.

He said Bush outsourced the job of capturing Bin Laden out to Afghan warlords "who just one week earlier were fighting us."

"Can you imagine trusting them when you have your 10th Mountain Division, the United States Marine Corps?"

Bush set the wolves on Kerry in a new television advertisement Friday that Kerry's running mate John Edwards called "despicable."

A female narrator accuses Kerry of being dangerously weak on national security, while a pack of wolves—standing in for terrorists—prowl menacingly onscreen.

"And weakness attracts those who are waiting to do America harm," the narrator says.

The Kerry campaign quickly fired back, calling the ad "desperate" and accusing Bush of using "the politics of fear to try and distract from President Bush's failed record on the economy and Iraq." "It won't work. This only reminds people that it's time for a fresh start and a new direction in America," spokesperson Chad Clanton said in a statement. *AFP*

KERRY holds a baby during a rally at the University of Nevada Oct. 22. AFP

Sikh boys challenge turban ban

CERGY, France—A French court examining an appeal from three Sikh youths suspended from classes for wearing an under-turban on Friday ordered the school authorities to hold a disciplinary hearing so they can formally state their case.

Lawyers for the teenagers had asked the administrative court in the Paris suburb of Cergy for a ruling whether the under-turban—known as a keski—contravenes a new French law banning religious symbols in state schools.

Instead it gave the headmaster of a secondary school in Bobigny 15 days in which to hold a disciplinary hearing.

The refusal to allow the boys into classes without giving them the chance to argue their case before a disciplinary hearing was "a serious and manifestly illegal breach of the rights to a defense," the court said.

The ruling meant there was no clear decision yet on the legality of the keski, for which members of France's 7,000 strong Sikh community had been hoping.

Tuesday's hearing was the first time France's "secularity" law had come before the courts. Designed to enforce the separation of religion and state, it bans the wearing of all "conspicuous" religious insignia in the classroom.

Primarily aimed at the growing number of Muslim girls wearing the headscarf, the law also banned Christian crosses and Jewish skullcaps. The Sikh turban was proscribed, even though the government admitted it had not even considered the Sikh community when the law was being drawn up.

In the Sikh religion males are required to let their hair grow uncut and all wear a turban.

The three Sikh boys have been consigned to a separate study room since the start of the academic year while a period of "dialogue" stipulated in the law has been conducted with the school authorities.

At the hearing lawyers asked for them to be fully reintegrated into the school or—failing that—for a disciplinary board to formally expel them. *AFP*

Kosovo goes to polls with Nato on standby

PRISTINA, Serbia and Montenegro—Kosovo began voting on Saturday for leaders likely to seek independence from Serbia at UN-brokered talks that may be held next year.

About 1.4 million people are eligible to vote for a 120-seat assembly charged with meeting UN benchmarks on human rights and rule of law across all of the ethnic groups in Kosovo, whose majority is Albanian.

A review will then clear the way for talks on "final status" for the territory, which is legally a province of Serbia.

Most voters are expected to choose between four main ethnic Albanian parties, all of which back demands for an independent state next year.

Kosovo has been a UN protectorate since three months of Nato bombing in 1999 drove out Serb forces to end what the West said was their ruthless bid to crush a guerrilla insurgency.

Polls in the general election—Kosovo's second since becoming a protectorate—will close at 8 p.m. and preliminary unofficial results are expected late on Saturday.

The impoverished province of 2 million relies heavily on European Union and United States aid. Unemployment is more than 50 percent.

The 90-percent majority Albanian population will decide the election and is widely expected to back moderates such as veteran president Ibrahim Rugova, who like his main rivals is running on a pro-independence platform.

"The future of Kosovo is at stake and I trust that each and every voter will... assume their responsibilities," said UN governor Soren Jessen-Petersen.

They will be choosing "the assembly and the government which will be responsible for leading the implementation of those standards that are absolutely essential to build a multi-ethnic Kosovo... so that the review can take place in summer 2005," he said.

But the success of the multi-ethnic democratic experiment also relies on the participation of the Serb minority, who have been urged by Serb nationalist leaders and the politically vocal Serbian Orthodox Church to boycott the ballot.

The Serbs, who oppose independence, are reluctant to legitimize the process. They say Albanian mob violence against them last March proved they need greater guarantees of security and representation.

Nineteen people were killed and hundreds of homes torched in the riots as mobs attacked Serb enclaves. A confidential report to the United Nations later said addressing Albanian aspirations could no longer be safely delayed.

Further delay in ending Kosovo's political and economic limbo by opening talks on its final status sometime next year could break the patience of a majority that has been waiting for its own state since 1999.

Nato maintains a peacekeeping force of 18,000 in Kosovo, reinforced by 2,000 for the election period for fear of a repeat of the March riots, which caught the United Nations and the peacekeepers off guard. *Reuters*

Castro: I'm in control

HAVANA—President Fidel Castro told his countrymen in a letter published on Friday that he remained fully in command of Cuba, even while undergoing surgery to rebuild his knee shattered in a fall.

The Cuban leader refused tranquilizers and general anesthetic during a three-hour surgery to rebuild his broken left left kneecap. He told doctors only to apply anesthetic from the waist down, so he would "be able to attend many important matters," during the procedure.

"Since the moment I fell, I have not stopped attending to the important tasks that I am responsible for, in coordination with the other comrades," Castro wrote in a letter printed on the front-page of Granma, the ruling Communist Party newspaper.

Castro, 78, tripped on a step and fell to the ground after a speech on Wednesday night in central Cuba, breaking the knee in eight places and suffering a hairline fracture in the right arm.

He quickly called for a microphone to reassure the stunned crowd and Cubans who saw the tumble live on television that he was "intact" and could continue governing in a plaster cast.

The fall was shown repeatedly on US television newscasts, but brought him no get well wishes from the Bush administration. *Reuters*

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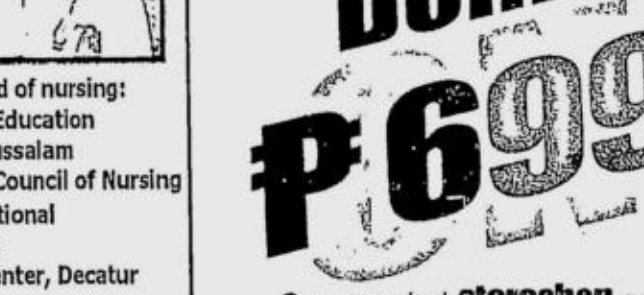

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   Example:
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2882

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3. Mag-reply lang ng YES <M-PIN> <ref. no.> kung tama o NO <M-PIN> <ref. no.> kung mali. I-send ito sa 2882.

Example: YES 1234 987654321

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2. I-send sa 2882 + <10-digit number of recipient>

Example: 1000 1234
Send it to 2882917XXXXXXX

G-CASH INTERNATIONAL REMITTANCE VIA TEXT

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OPINION

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Debt relief 1

EDITORIAL

THE 11 senior economists from the University of the Philippines School of Economics did the country a signal service when they issued their now famous paper on the deepening fiscal crisis. But their analysis of the "real score on deficits and the public debt" is relatively silent on a crucial question: debt relief.

Like the classic Sherlock Holmes tale, the UP 11 paper is remarkable because of the dog who did not bark. In their analysis, the economists note that current national government spending is at its lowest in a decade, "net of interest payments." In other words, if we remove interest payments for both local and foreign debt from the equation, government spending is actually smaller now than it was two administrations ago.

The growing public debt, then, is part of the problem; it may in fact be the root of it. Consider, for instance, the fact that the national government budget cannot fund all our development needs. Much of it goes to salaries, maintenance and operating expenses, local governments—and debt service. With very little left to spare, the budget cannot possibly provide the economy what it needs. And yet it is a budget we cannot even afford; we have to borrow even more money to pay for it (hence the deficit).

But the option of debt relief (the telltale dog in the debt narrative) is not discussed in the UP 11 paper. "But why does the UPSE step so gingerly around the public debt issue? Could it be because about 80 percent of the total debt is owed to foreign creditors, and dealing seriously with it will mean having to confront these lenders?" ask UP sociologist Walden Bello and Lidy Nacpil and Ana Marie Nemenzo of the Freedom from Debt Coalition.

To be sure, the widely circulated critique from Bello and the FDC is less than completely intellectually honest. It tries to have it both ways, chiding the UP 11 for "ideological bias" and then later attacking them for lacking "intellectual courage"—essentially, for failing to transcend that same bias. Now, someone who does not offer a particular solution because he has defined the problem differently may be accused of many things, but by definition intellectual cowardice cannot be one of them.

On the matter of "managing" the growing public debt, however, their criticism is to the point: "It is testimony to how full debt repayment according to the terms dictated by our creditors has become a sacred cow that the UPSE paper fails to even suggest [or] mention the possibility of managing it rationally."

This same sacred cow, more and more Filipinos are beginning to realize, has taken over the middle of the road, blocking all progress. The result, in the technical language Bello and the FDC employ: "Along with the structural adjustment measures imposed under the guidance of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, the strategy of making debt repayment the national priority—which has been followed by every administration since Marcos—has created a condition of structural stagnation..."

How do we coax the sacred cow to move and get out of the way?

Perhaps the time has come to reconsider debt relief.

We do not suggest outright repudiation, although some debts, such as the one incurred at grossly disadvantageous terms to fund the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant, qualify for it. We do not suggest a debt moratorium either; it is critical to collaborate with every single creditor.

What we do suggest is debt renegotiation, starting with the debts incurred by the Marcos regime.

Taming North Korea

FOREIGN COMMENT

THE UNITED States has enacted a law aimed at helping promote human rights and freedom in North Korea.

The enactment of the law serves as a new message urging North Korean leader Kim Jong-il to improve his country's attitude toward human rights. The law also will lend support to Japan in its effort to resolve the case of a Japanese kidnapped to North Korea.

North Korea should be made to realize that it will be unable to improve relations with the rest of the world unless it first resolves the abduction controversy and the issues on its nuclear program.

The new US legislation seeks to ensure that North Korea will respect and defend basic human rights, settle problems arising from North Koreans escaping from their country, and improve the transparency in the handling of humanitarian aid to that nation.

It has become common to see North Korean escapees seek asylum in foreign embassies. Given its severity, the international community must tackle this problem. China and North Korea—both home to North Korean refugees—should grapple with the problem through close talks with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

Yomiuri Shimbun (Tokyo)

Chief Justice Enrique M. Fernando

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

I WAS desolated to learn of the death of former Chief Justice Enrique M. Fernando last week at age 89. He was one of the most erudite members of the Supreme Court, which he headed from 1979 until his retirement in 1985. An uncompromising libertarian and a staunch defender of the democratic ethic before, he impaired that image when he sided with Ferdinand Marcos during martial law and, as he put it, "legitimized" the dictator's abuses. Many of his admirers, including me, were disappointed and felt betrayed.

Until his confinement in the hospital this year, he often visited the high tribunal and attended its programs and functions. He was proud to say that many of its members were his students in the UP College of Law during his early years as a professor, along with Ambrosio Padilla, Vicente Abad Santos, and Ramon Aquino. His students on the Court during my time included Teodoro Padilla, Florentino Feliciano, Hugo Gutierrez, Marcelo Fernan, Flerida Ruth Romero, Camilo D. Quiason, and others.

I was one of them, in his class in Political Law in the first year. As I teasingly told him many years later in the presence of his wife Emma, I did not learn much from him because he was then obsessed with his future bride, who was then in the senior year. When lecturing to us, the young professor often lost his train of thought every time his lady love passed by on the corridor. The couple smiled at the recollection because it was true. Despite his shortcomings, and mine, he gave me a grade of 2, which was respectable enough for me.

When I was on the Court, he often visited me for a few minutes of conversation. I thought earlier that he must have some request or suggestion to make in connection with some case, but I learned later that all he intended was a short social visit. I think he was that way with the other justices he had taught in college. Once he invited Teddy Padilla and me (we were classmates) to lunch at a Japanese restaurant and we had an amiable time discussing not law but current political issues.

I will have to say now that when I was the dean of the Lyceum School of Law, Sotero H. Laurel, our president, sounded me off about the possible appointment of Fernando to the faculty. I objected because of his rather tyrannical manner in the classroom and predicted that his students (in the Lyceum, not UP) would protest and strike. I thought that was the end of the matter but was surprised later to learn that Teroy had appointed him just the same without my previous knowledge and consent. I resigned. Fernando knew about this but did not hold it against me. Later he called me up to ask me to take over his class when the students struck as I had feared.

Iking, as his friends called him, specialized in Constitutional Law in his teaching and practice. He was more knowledgeable than many American lawyers in their own jurisprudence on the subject and could quote from memory Justices Holmes, Cardozo, Brandeis, and other eminent jurists, as well as our own Justice Laurel, for whom he had a special admiration. He co-authored a book on the Constitution with another esteemed colleague, Lorenzo M. Tañada. He was an active member of the Civil Liberties Union, together with Jose W. Diokno, Claudio Teehankee, and other libertarians. Except for his lamentable defection in support of the despot during the martial law era, he was peerless in the defense of human rights.

In my book, "Res Gestae," I made some uncomplimentary remarks about his disappointing tolerance, even active justification, of the martial law regime. I quoted a concurring opinion of his (to Justice Barredo's slavish adoration of Marcos) in which he praised "the impressive performance of the President and the First Lady in improving the quality of life of the Filipinos, reviving our valued virtues and traditions, and enhancing the dignity of the nation." Many people, especially his students, were perplexed by his *volte face*. His advocacy of republicanism and individual liberty had earlier earned him much popular acclaim.

Yet for all my open disapproval of his espousal of the discredited Marcos regime, Fernando exhibited no displeasure or hostility toward me. We remained friends and he made no mention at all of my adverse commentaries on his mistaken loyalties. Looking back now, I feel some remorse over my impatient criticisms. I am consoled, though, that he would have understood and defended my freedom of expression, which he regarded as an article of faith.

Fernando was first and foremost a consummate academician. He graduated *magna cum laude* and valedictorian from the UP College of Law and earned his masteral degree in Yale as the first Filipino Sterling Fellow. He was later conferred the degree of Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*, by the Centro Escolar University and by a university in South Korea. He truly deserved to be acknowledged as an estimable and superior Scholar of the Law.

Enrique M. Fernando had his imperfections, like all of us, especially when he strayed from the path of freedom during the Marcos misrule. But he was a cherished friend for all that frailty, and I deeply grieve over his passing.

Not what you think

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

SOMEONE once told me that if a man is bald on the forehead, he is a thinking man; if a man is bald on the crown, he is a sexy man; if a man is bald on the forehead and on the crown of his head, he thinks he's a sexy man!

* * *

In today's Gospel (Lk. 18, 9-14), Jesus reprimands those who think of themselves as more righteous or better than others. Humility is the key. Only if we are humble can we really experience who God is, and only if we are humble can we know who we really are. Humility is the best starting point. With humility we can't go wrong, for "whoever makes himself out to be great will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be raised." In fact, a lot of our relationship problems can be solved if we learn humility, honesty and respect, and we make God, rather than ourselves, the standard.

* * *

Some people are good, so darn good, but they are not humble. They think and make themselves believe that they are good, then they make others know how good they are. They even, perhaps, consciously or unconsciously believe that they do deserve God's love because of their goodness. Wrong. Wrong. Wrong. Such people would do well to remember that all of us are sinners; being good is not a contest; none of us deserves God's love.

* * *

Try the expression "my goodness!" It is a beautiful reminder that whatever goodness we have comes from God. It is a sharing in goodness. It is an acceptance that our goodness is not just our achievement but God's goodness shining through us. There is nothing to boast about, but there is a lot to praise God for whenever we are good and whenever we do good.

* * *

When I look back, I remember people who were disciplined, diligent, hardworking and brilliant. Many of them I admired, but many of them I despised because of their arrogance and pride. The former were humble, inspiring, and edifying, while the latter were so full of themselves, with no room for God's grace working in them. Is your life of one big grace or of one big ego trip?

* * *

Given a little prodding, any parish priest will tell you that many times, the biggest problems in the parish arise from people who claim or self-proclaim themselves to be those closest to the parish or to the parish priest himself. I do not at all deny their invaluable help and contribution to their parishes, but many of these well-meaning and enthusiastic lay helpers could make the life of their parish priests miserable with their petty quarrels among themselves and with their constant comments on how things should be done. They claim to do all these for the good of the parish, but underneath all these is the desire for recognition, position, control, and admiration. May we, clergy and lay people alike, learn to serve the Lord with humility, with no expectation for reward and without vanity. Service is not for fame or glory.

* * *

What can we say about politicians who claim to be public servants, and who readily recite and remind the people, at any given opportunity, their litany of achievements and accomplishments? They even make their "sacrifices" for the good of the nation known, while they go on committing sacrileges against our people and nation. And the thing is they get away with this! They can manipulate and fool our people without suffering its consequences! It is really disgusting that so few can control and manipulate the lives of so many in our land.

* * *

Just now, I paused for a moment of prayer. I just realized that I myself may have taken the pharisaic position when I criticized the petty-minded lay helpers in our parishes and the deceiving politicians in our midst. But there is a difference: A Pharisee criticizes others to uplift himself, while a prophet criticizes others to uplift the truth. When you criticize others, is it for yourself or is it for God and the truth?

* * *

Next week, especially on All Soul's Day, we are reminded by the Church about death and eternal life. The bottom line is not what we think, and not what others think, but what God thinks we are. We can fool others, we can fool even ourselves, but, we can never fool God. The best prayer, the best starting point for any prayer is: "Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner." Take the road of humility, and you're on the right road.

* * *

Congratulations to the Sisters of St. Paul of Chartres, who are celebrating their 100th year in the Philippines. There will be a Thanksgiving Mass at the Manila Cathedral on Oct. 25, 4 p.m., to be officiated by Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales. They will also have a gala night presentation of "Women with a Heart," written and directed by Fr. James Reuter, S.J. at the Fleur de Lis Auditorium at the St. Paul University Manila on the same day. Please contact 524-5687.

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, remind me that what matters most is not what I think, what others think, but what you think of me. Amen.

Abu and Aglipay

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

THE GOOD NEWS. The Philippine Air Force has 45 brand-new pilots including two females—First Lt. Pinky Moises of Iloilo City and First Lt. Cherryl Luna of Zamboanga City, both members of Officer Candidate School (OCS) Class of 1999-B. The entire batch belongs to the Military Pilot Training Class of 2004 which graduated 10 days ago at Fernando Air Base, Lipa City. The topnotcher of the group is First Lt. Eric Ricafrente of Marinduque who was awarded the PAF Commanding General's Medal for highest overall proficiency in both flying and academic work. Incidentally, the commandant of the PAF Flying School, Col. Edgardo Rene Samonte, served as my senior aide when I headed the Air Force immediately after the Edsa Revolution. He informed us that most of the new graduates will be assigned to the 205th Tactical Helicopter Wing as well as the 15th Strike Wing where they will undergo helicopter specialization. This is in line with the expected arrival of additional choppers from the United States as announced by PAF chief Lt. Gen. Jose L. Reyes.

The bad news. With fewer aircraft available for training purposes, it is going to take longer to produce military pilots for the Air Force. This batch took 20 months to graduate as against the former average of 12-14 months.

* * *

On Friday, Lt. Gen. Efren L. Abu, the Army commander, takes over as AFP chief of staff. Abu, a member of PMA Class of 1972, assumes command of the Armed Forces at a time when the organization is being wracked by a scandal never seen before in its entire history. For any soldier, being named to the highest post in the AFP is usually an occasion for much joy and jubilation. But when I called to congratulate him, General Abu sounded more like a person on whose shoulders a heavy burden had been placed. Yes, there was a note of happiness and good cheer in his voice, but this was obviously tempered by the realization that the institution he was about to head was going through some very rough times, times which called for sobriety and sacrifice and a new kind of leadership which would set the example for the officers and men.

As you read this column, Abu is in Jakarta for a private meeting with Indonesia's new president, Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono (SBY) his classmate at Fort Leavenworth, home of the US Army Command and General Staff School. Both belong to the Class of 1991. SBY is the second member of their class to become president of his nation. The first was Paul Kagami, president of Rwanda. This connection makes Abu a possible future ambassador to Indonesia.

With Abu's move to Camp Aguinaldo, Maj. Gen. Generoso Senga, Southcom chief, is tipped to be the next Army commander. Senga is also a member of Class 1972.

* * *

Perhaps, this is the proper time to mention once again the issue concerning a fixed term of office for the AFP chief. General Abu will be retiring on June 24, 2005 barely eight months from now. As was mentioned in an earlier column, we had five AFP chiefs in the short span of roughly three years—Villanueva, Cimatu, Defensor, Santiago, Abaya—and this situation proved disadvantageous for the Armed Forces. If the lowly barangay chief has a fixed term of three years, surely the AFP chief and the major service commanders deserve much more.

The same holds true for the Philippine National Police leadership. Director General Edgar Aglipay was recently appointed PNP chief and his term was extended for a period of six months. What can we possibly expect him to accomplish in six months? Aglipay is already talking about his retirement in Calamaniugan, Cagayan and going into farming. In the meantime, he mentions police reforms but, given the circumstances, who is going to take him seriously? He is not going to rock the boat or challenge the status quo or make new enemies just as he is about to step down from office, and the people below will not necessarily follow a leader who is on his way out.

The game of musical chairs cannot be played in the AFP or the PNP. Too much is at stake. What is needed is strong and stable leadership capable of cracking the whip to keep people in line.

* * *

Gen. Narciso Abaya wrote me a long letter explaining, among other things, why he had to leave for Tokyo just as the case of Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia was hogging the headlines of the local papers. He said that his trip to attend the 7th Chief of Defense (CHOD) conference was an international commitment and an opportunity to discuss with Asean counterparts issues of common concern, especially terrorism. But "the single most important activity in the conference was my bilateral meeting on the last day with Adm. Thomas B. Fargo of the US Pacific Command (PACOM)." Abaya said that "the US was particularly concerned with the case involving MGeneral Garcia because, of all the Joint Staffs, US PACOM deals largely with OJ5 in the implementation of the RP-US Mutual Defense Treaty."

Which makes me wonder. Abaya testified that his first inkling of trouble came last February when he received information coming from US sources about currency violations by the Garcia sons. Would it not have been more prudent to relieve Garcia of all his duties while conducting an investigation instead of reassigning him to, of all places, OJ5 (Plans and Programs) where he would be dealing with the Americans on defense matters? This is somewhat similar to the question raised by Rep. Allan Peter Cayetano during the recent House hearings. Why assign an officer from one sensitive post to another equally sensitive position in the light of derogatory information concerning the activities of family members?

Margie's back

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

"SHE'S BACK!" the invitation from the good folks at National Bookstore proclaimed. Few women deserve such a public welcome, and even fewer would elicit much interest upon their return. But Dr. Margarita Go Sinco Holmes, who some years back left for London to join her husband Jeremy, does and she "threatens" to make Manila once more her permanent base, now that Jeremy is retiring.

In many ways, though, the indomitable Margie Holmes never really left, maintaining a presence here through her columns in the tabloid Abante and in the glossy magazine Cosmopolitan. Just the mention of her two publishing outlets is proof of the amazing breadth of Margie's appeal and marketability. And that's no mystery, for whoever and whatever we are—*jologs* or *sosy*—and wherever we are—living at home or working abroad—when it comes to sex, and to sex matters discussed as candidly, intelligently and compassionately, we cannot but be enthralled by the country's foremost sex authority.

It was Margie Holmes, after all, who, in her own words "took sex out of the closet (and helped) people deal with it more objectively (by distinguishing between fact and fiction, myth and reality)." She also entertained and enlightened, and most important, emboldened the rest of us to speak (and write) more openly about sexual matters and concerns, starting a conversation that's still going on despite the efforts of our social censors to shove it back into the closet of silence and hypocrisy. If only for this, she should be recognized as a pioneer in the advocacy for sexual and reproductive health and rights in this country.

* * *

THIS time, Margie disclosed, during lunch with the press at the Power Books branch in Greenbelt 4, that her upcoming book (far overdue, which is why Anvil Books is announcing it prematurely to spur Margie through the final chapters) will not be about sex but about clinical depression. She and her publishers seem unfazed by the fact that of her 16 Anvil books so far, only one was not about sex (it was on family relationships) and it sold the least number of copies.

Neither, it seems, are they worried about the possibility that the word "depression" on the cover could turn off readers, or that a book about depression could be depressing. Against that possibility, I am trusting in Margie's power to lace with humor and compassion her writing on even the most serious and sensitive of topics.

"Like love, depression has been trivialized," she declares, stressing that her new book will not be on coping with low moments but rather with "clinical" depression, a prolonged and debilitating condition that affects one's productivity and relationships, and leaves one incapable of finding pleasure in anything, even in Margie's favorite topic.

* * *

"ON AVERAGE," says Margie, "clinical depression lasts for nine months," the severity and length of the condition depending on a person's predisposition (which some believe is inherited) and whether he or she gets professional help.

How does a person know whether he or she is going through a clinical depression or just garden-variety blues? Margie cites several signposts: the condition persists for at least two weeks, it results in changes in appetite (eating too much or not at all), weight (losing or gaining) and sleeping patterns (inability to get out of bed or inability to fall asleep). But the sharpest indicator, she says, is "anhedonia," when one no longer finds pleasure from things or activities that used to please, even "the smile of a child."

When Margie first began writing her sex columns, critics accused her of pandering to "base" instincts, arguing that such openness about sex went against Filipino "culture." But guess what, the deluge of fan mail and her long-lasting popularity prove that Filipinos are not only very interested in sex, they also yearn to know as much as they can about not just sex, but also relationships and life. Margie's coming book may yet help us deal rationally and compassionately with those sunk in the depths of depression, especially if they are people we love.

* * *

WHAT if you had a chance to find the answer to "what might have been"? What if a stranger whom you met on a train and spent an unforgettable day with, and with whom you have fallen in love, walks back into your life nine years after, and you have a chance to rewrite the ending? Would you take the chance or opt for the status quo?

Those are the tantalizing possibilities held out by the movie "Before Sunset," the sequel to "Before Sunrise," which tells the story of the day that Jesse (Ethan Hawke) and Celine (Julie Delpy) spend together in Vienna, falling in love and parting, promising to meet each other in the same city six months hence.

Almost a decade later, Jesse is in Paris, promoting his book which is a fictionalized account of his day with Celine, when he spots her at the back of a bookshop. Like the movie before it, "Before Sunset" is circumscribed by the characters' schedules. Jesse is flying out that same evening. And in the cramped hours between their meeting and his departure, they must sort out the past nine years and what had happened in their lives in the interim.

There is little by way of action in this movie, and, thank heavens, a minimum of plot devices, but there is an abundance of dialogue. And it's about the most natural I've heard in the movies in years. Fascinating is how the emotions simmering beneath the verbiage rise and fall in unexpected rhythms, flowing from the prosaic to the profound, with little announcement or preparation. It's like listening in on a private conversation, which we all know is a treat. It also helps that the strangers are as good-looking as Hawke and Delpy.

The general's lawyer

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

MANY who lived through martial law cannot look at a man in uniform without somehow recalling its horrors. It is a perceptual association that has survived the graying of memory. You have to keep telling yourself that the evil was in the regime, not necessarily in the individuals it used.

It's not always easy to heed this voice. Thus it was with much satisfaction that I watched Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia's grilling by a congressional committee. I imagined the young legislators who were questioning him to be the children of our generation, leveling off the score for the countless activists summoned before military bodies during those dark years. For a while, I even forgot that Rep. Imee Marcos, who asked very sharp questions, was the dictator's daughter.

Everything I detested in the military during its heyday—the smugness, the arrogance, the corruption, and the malevolence—seemed to merge in the corpulent general's persona. So powerful was the wicked glow he emitted that I thought it gave even his seatmate—the kindly Gen. Narciso Abaya—a shadowy mien. If a man's culpability were to be determined by the way he looked, there was no question General Garcia was a guilty man.

It was in the middle of these ruminations that I suddenly caught a glimpse of the general's lawyer seated just beside him. Half-expecting a well-dressed lawyer from the country's expensive law firms or a familiar face from the roster of champions of lost causes, I was totally unprepared for what I saw. The general's counsel looked like my old friend Constantino B. de Jesus, my roommate in school and a dear brother. "That's not Tito," my wife assured me, "the chin is too small." "Of course, it is Tito," I pressed, "without the goatee." Only Tito buttons his cotton *barong* at the neck. "That's him," I said with increasing discomfort. Tito is a competent, meticulous, low-profile lawyer of unassailable integrity. He certainly does not need the money or the publicity. What, in heaven's name, is he doing beside this man who has practically been pilloried in public as a crook?

Later that day I sent him this message: "You must have a reason for burdening yourself with such an indefensible case. I'm dying to hear it." He replied, "I'll call you later." We met the other day and talked for about six hours about the practice of law, the responsibility of lawyers, the fragility of our institutions, and his own 32-year-career as a litigator, sometimes as a court-appointed counsel for convicts on death row.

"I hope you're being paid well," I said unfairly. "So far, I have received a regular helping of Hall's candy from him," he said laughing. "Of course, the sins of the client should not be visited upon the lawyer," I added, hoping to erase the mild insult I had just uttered. Tito has been my friend since college days at the UP. We meet for lunch at least once a month to exchange notes about family, country, and life in general. To one another, we are as brother, philosopher, and friend. I was surprised he did not seek my advice on whether to take this case or decline it.

"I didn't know him from Adam," he said. "People I implicitly trust asked me to help him. His first lawyer had just withdrawn his counsel, and a congressional committee has been waiting to put him on the stand. I am a lawyer; a lawyer's oath makes no distinction on who to defend."

I asked if he did not think it was necessary for his client to tell him beforehand what his story was. "No, things happened very fast. He was in the hospital. He was facing a congressional investigation and he needed a lawyer to tell him what his rights were. In time, of course, I will have to know and be convinced by his account of the disparity between his declared income and the money and properties that he is supposed to own." He was emphatic that he would never pursue his client's interest at the expense of truth and justice.

The law is about basic fairness, Tito reminded me. Under the rule of law, there is a presumption of innocence until guilt is proven. It is what separates rule of law from mob rule, he said. He lamented media's tendency to highlight the negative aspects of a person's appearance and situation and to take these as indications of his guilt. I could only nod in agreement. By coincidence, I've been reading the book "Supreme Court Decisions as Philosophy" and marked a line in the landmark case of Conde v. City Judge Superable Jr.: "When a litigant is therefore an individual for whom he (the judge) does not cherish kindly thoughts, he is called upon to show greater care lest inadvertently he finds himself unable to resist the prompting of his emotions."

"This is a fascinating case," Tito told me. "I don't regret taking it. It is every lawyer's dream to contribute to the refinement of the law's meaning through jurisprudence." He said there are many novel elements in this case: the anti-money laundering law, the role of the Ombudsman, the proper sphere of a court martial, etc. These and the whole politically charged atmosphere in which this case is being tried will test our resolve to protect our institutions from the instant gratifications of trial by publicity.

How lucky for the general to have a bright lawyer who is neither a crook nor a crackpot. If he is ultimately found guilty, my fear is that, in a culture like ours, his lawyer would be made to bear part of his disgrace. I asked Tito if this does not bother him. He smiled and simply said, no.

* * *

Comments to davidinquirer@yahoo.com

Possible alibis for unexplained wealth

A TOUGH job lies ahead for the lawyers of beleaguered Army Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia.

Their client is facing charges at the Office of the Ombudsman and Court of Appeals in connection with his unexplained wealth. A court martial will soon be convened by the Armed Forces of the Philippines to determine his liability under the Articles of War for the same offense.

COMMENTARY

Raul J. Palabrica

Depending on the evidence presented at the preliminary investigation, the Ombudsman may file a case of plunder against him and have him detained without bail for the duration of the trial, like deposed President Joseph Estrada.

Garcia's legal troubles are not confined in the Philippines. The properties in the United States that he and his family allegedly own have been impounded by the US government pending resolution of the question of whether or not the money used to buy them came from lawful sources.

If the money that Garcia had earlier brought into the United States was partly instrumental in his wife's and children's securing legal residency—and later, American citizenship—then they could lose their citizenship due to false representations. The cancellation by the US government of Garcia's green card shortly after his questionable bank accounts and real estate holdings were exposed could be portent of things to come for them.

Worse, they can be included in the criminal charges as accomplices if it can be shown that they participated in Garcia's actions by allowing their names to be used in the acquisition of the bank deposits and properties in question.

Presumption

At the outset, Garcia's defense is burdened by a "presumption of guilt." Under the Unexplained Wealth Law (or Republic Act 1379), when a public officer or employee has acquired during his incumbency an amount of property which is manifestly out of proportion to his salary as public officer or employee and his other income and the income from legitimately acquired property, the said property shall be presumed to have been unlawfully acquired.

But this presumption is conditional or temporary. Thus, in Garcia's case, if he is able to prove that he acquired the properties in question through legitimate means, then the presumption that they were illegally acquired will be set aside.

On the other hand, if he fails to show that those properties were acquired through lawful means, the impression of illegality becomes conclusive. And off to prison or the lethal injection chamber he goes, while the fruits of his crime will be confiscated by the government.

The application of the "presumption of guilt" in Garcia's case is unavoidable. As a major general, he receives a monthly salary of P37,000, less the usual deductions. His latest Statement of Assets and Liabilities does not show that he and other members of his family have other legitimate sources of income that can account for his fat bank accounts, landholdings in the Philippines and the United States, and the thousands of dollars that his wife and children have brought to the United States in past trips.

The burden of overturning this presumption is not going to be easy. Garcia's lawyers have to come up with credible reasons for the unusual (to quote the words of Gen. Narciso Abaya) rise of his net worth in the light of his present compensation.

Alibis

The defenses that Garcia may invoke are: inheritance from his or her spouse's relatives, winning the sweepstakes, successful family business, and loans or donations from relatives and friends.

While these excuses look plausible, proving their truth can be difficult. All these defenses have paper trails that can be verified through public or private documents.

In the inheritance alibi, the deed of donation or last will and testament of the dead relative and titles over the properties have to be produced and proven authentic. These documents can be counterchecked with the reputation in the community of the family that made the inheritance or donation. In this intrusive society of ours, the names of families with "old money" or those of mere pretenders are of public knowledge.

With regard to winning the sweepstakes and profitable business ventures, the validation can be done through official documents, such as, income tax returns, financial statements and other government records.

There's a risk though in presenting these defenses: if the documents do not contain accurate information or the right taxes were not paid for the inheritance or donation, or the profits earned, expect the Bureau of Internal Revenue to go after the parties involved in the transactions for unpaid taxes.

In an earlier statement, Garcia used the "loans and donations" as an excuse to explain the source of the thousands of dollars that his son was last caught bringing into the United States. If he wants to maintain this defense, he better be ready to disclose the identity of his generous relatives and friends.

Equally guilty

There is no way any judge will allow the names of those benefactors to be kept under wraps and at the same time give credence to Garcia's self-serving claim that those dollars came from clean sources.

And when those relatives and friends are identified and compelled to confirm their action, they should be forewarned of the adverse consequences of not being able to prove that they have the financial resources, fully backed by income tax returns, to lend or donate to Garcia the dollars in question.

If they fail to prove their credentials, they may find themselves facing perjury charges or, worse, included in the charge sheet as accessories to the crimes that Garcia is being accused of.

In case these defenses fail, Garcia can fall back on his last card: finger-pointing. Why pick on me when other military top brass, senators, congressmen, Cabinet members and local officials have fat bank accounts and extensive property holdings in the Philippines and the United States?

It's the classic "let him who is without sin cast the first stone" argument that corrupt public officials like to invoke in defense of their action or when, in the privacy of their rooms, their consciences nag them about their ill-gotten wealth.

It will take some time before the cases against Garcia can be resolved with finality. In the meantime, his name has achieved a peculiar connotation in the streets; it is not flattering, but Ali Baba will surely like it.

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TALK of the TOWN

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Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

Should the top brass step down?

THE INQUIRY into the alleged ill-gotten wealth of Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia spotlights the corruption in the military. When a general, who receives a monthly salary of P36,015, transfers a total of P44 million (at the current exchange rate) to the United States, owns real estate in Manhattan and Ohio, and keeps more than P50 million in bank accounts in the country, he is likely to be getting funds from illegal sources.

It is generally believed that Garcia, a former comptroller in the Armed Forces of the Philippines, could not have amassed huge sums of money by himself. Some 100 generals and their counterparts in the Philippine National Police are said to have bank deposits of P5 million each.

The Feliciano Commission has identified the modes of corruption in the military—conversion, contingency funds, washing, rigged bidding, purchase order splitting, and sale of firearms, ammunition and fuel.

Conversion is the practice of turning funds for supplies into cash, while washing is the laundering of funds, which results from converting into cash the sub-allotment advice for a particular AFP unit.

When a general assigned to the logistics command tells members of the House committee on national defense that he is not aware of any conversion in the military, the public has every reason to doubt the veracity of his statement.

Cleaning up the AFP stables is a herculean task, which may require, according to some quarters, nothing less than the firing or resignation of the top brass. But the commander in chief is a "weakling," according to an influential US policy research group, and the generals are not government officials from the Land of the Rising Sun.

I doubt it can be done

By Col. Romeo Lim (Ret.)

With the current focus on corruption in the military, there have been calls for the top brass to resign. Being a reformist myself, I would tend to subscribe to this school of thought, but I am constrained by one important question. If told to resign, will they willingly do so?

While I truly think that making all of the top brass resign may pave the way for a much better organization, it may be too simplistic a solution given the history of corruption in the military.

In the not too distant past, corruption in the military was talked about in certain circles and only in hushed whispers lest the powers that be get wind of one's unsavory comments and make one eventually end up in some deserted vacant lot in Cavite being feasted upon by maggots.

There were generals then whose tales of corruption and greed extended not only to immediate family members but also to their concubines. Evidence of unexplained wealth was gleaned from the flashy cars, splendid houses, trips abroad and extravagant lifestyle. Yet, one cannot ascertain how much money was actually involved. One can only surmise that the figure ran into millions.

Gifts

At present, the public is being given an idea of how much money can go into "gratitude gifts" and the like. We have been presented with facts and figures of how being in the right position at the right time can be an excellent money-making venture even while in public service.

Unfortunately, while many are appalled at these malpractice, no one is shocked. No longer whispered discreetly in selected circles, *l'affaire* Garcia is being discussed and dissected as thoroughly in the *palengke* as much as in military circles.

Corruption in the military has been happening so often and for so long that its shock value has greatly diminished. Even the lower ranks are starting to realize that entering the military service does not necessarily mean sacrificing one's comfort for "love of country."

Special breed

Case in point: It has been reported that on several occasions basic infantry courses are sometimes canceled due to lack of students. Not many were interested. On the other hand, while basic comptroller courses are sometimes canceled, it is never due to lack of interest. There are just too many students that not everyone can be accommodated.

The allure of the comptroller courses is, obviously, due to the fact that military comptrollers hold the money. Moreover, the higher you go in the hierarchy of military comptrollers, the bigger your "responsibilities." It has been bruited about that this "special breed of men" is a brotherhood unto itself, looking out for each other's interests. Of course, this can never be proven by outsiders like you and me. Yours truly has always been an infantry man.

Thus, while I do not wish to generalize, my school of thought runs like this: If younger officers in positions of power find it difficult to resign, how much more the top brass who wield greater power?

This whole episode brings to mind a certain portion of the National Recovery Program, said to be controversial soldier and former senator Gringo Honasan's program of government. In it, he stated that all generals should resign. I believe he wanted to infuse the AFP with fresher blood. Or maybe, he just wanted to give the younger officers better role models.

While I may agree, I have my doubts that it can be done.

(The author was chief of staff of the Scout Rangers from 1983 to 1989. He received the Gold Cross medal for bravery in combat six months after he joined the military service as a lieutenant. He was awarded several other medals for his work in the field.)

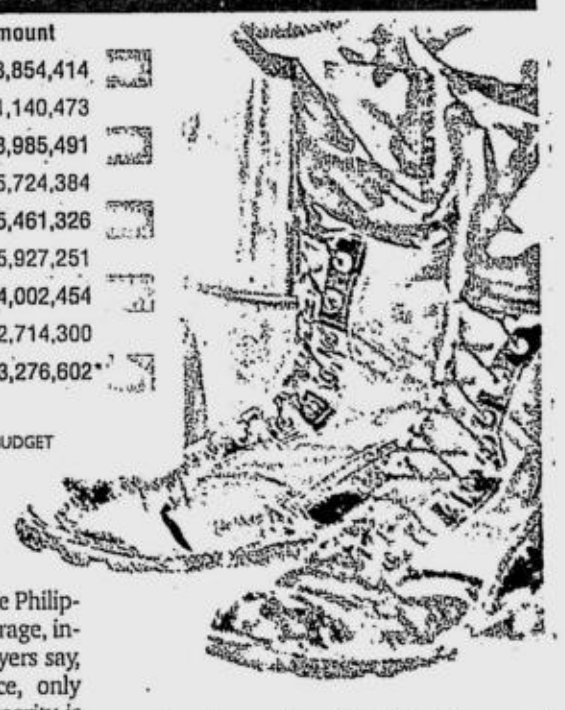
PDI PHOTOS / INQGRAPHIC. ERNIE SAMBO

AFP Budget: 1997-2005
(in thousand pesos)

Year	Amount
1997	28,854,414
1998	31,140,473
1999	28,985,491
2000	35,724,384
2001	35,461,326
2002	35,927,251
2003	44,002,454
2004	42,714,300
2005	43,276,602*

* Proposed budget

SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET



The generals will cover up, spin stories

By Rene N. Jarque

Should the generals resign? Yes and no. They should resign for two reasons. First, if they still believe in the Honor Code, that "an officer does not lie, cheat, steal nor tolerate those who do," that honor is still a virtue of an officer and a gentleman—like government officials in Japan who resign and make a public apology for their misconduct. Perhaps, the shame is an atonement for their wrongdoing.

The resignation of the generals would show a great example of leadership and morality. But we are Filipinos and that is too much to expect of our generals.

Second, they should resign because the AFP needs a new breed of officers to reform itself—leaders who possess the moral courage to make changes, to professionalize the Officer Corps and rid the AFP of corruption. I seriously doubt if the present crop of generals can do it but there is hope in the younger generation of officers, who have not been tainted too much and still have some idealism left.

Luxurious lifestyle

The generals, past and present, are responsible for the corrupt state of the AFP today. It is perhaps unfair to the generals today as they merely inherited a corrupt system. However, their quibbling and lying in the congressional hearings tell us that they are no better than their predecessors who did not want to change the status quo. The generals on the stand know that they are guilty of the same offense as Garcia.

Over the years, the generals have closed their eyes and ears to the sleaze that provided them with luxurious lifestyle when millions of Filipinos live in poverty. Many, if not all, of the generals, since martial law, were or are guilty of corruption, directly and indirectly—directly, by knowingly authorizing fraudulent transactions for the conversion of AFP funds or by seeking commissions from unscrupulous suppliers, and indirectly, for receiving unauthorized allowances or "conflict-of-interests" transactions.

On the other hand, they should not resign because without them there will be a sudden disruption in the chain of command and a potential breakdown in discipline. But I believe this is far-fetched as there are many capable colonels who can fill the vacuum. Rather than a breakdown of discipline, I predict there will be better discipline once soldiers realize that when the generals leave, better leaders will rise to work for their welfare. Besides, wiping out the generals would give the AFP a real fresh start at reform.

Will they resign? Of course not. Why should they? They will not resign because it is not in their nature despite what the Philippine Military had taught them—courage, integrity and loyalty. As many Peemayers say, as one grows older in the service, only courage and loyalty remain and integrity is erased from the bullring.

They will not resign because they will not admit that they have done wrong. What's wrong with carting away P180 million when the soldiers don't have combat boots? What's wrong with receiving commissions from suppliers when other government officials, in fact, solicit them. And who wants to go to jail or be sentenced to death for plunder?

They will not resign because they are afraid to bear responsibility for their misconduct. In other words, they are not men of integrity. But maybe Garcia and the cabal of generals are fighting for what they believe in—that there is nothing wrong in stealing from the people, that it is their privilege as generals to take from the public coffers, that they can be dishonest as long as they do not get caught.

Pawn

I calculate that Garcia will be a pawn sacrificed to protect the generals who will cry "witch hunt." But witches do not exist, corrupt generals do. A whitewash will set a bad example for the junior officers who will think that it is OK to lie and steal as long as you cover your tracks. The web of corruption must be destroyed so the Officer Corps can develop into a professional, forward-looking and honest institution.

The generals will cover up, spin stories and confuse the people. In the hearings, they deny the existence of "conversion" when the Feliciano Commission has confirmed it. The generals are in a state of denial and should be ashamed of themselves. They know that they have violated every element of the Honor Code. They have lied to, cheated and stolen from the people and they tolerated one another. But they will not resign because they are hypocrites, because they know they are guilty and could go to jail. Also, we are not Japanese.

(The author is a former Army Officer who operated with the First Scout Ranger Regiment and the Psychological Operations Group. In GHQ, he was Chief of the Strategic Research Division of the Office of Strategic and Special Studies. He was Special Assistant to the Secretary of National Defense where he developed and published the first Philippine Defense White Paper in 1998. He has advocated AFP reform since he was a lieutenant. He is a graduate of West Point, Class of 1986.)

Transforming, not reforming, the AFP

By Col. Ricardo Morales

Corruption is much evident in the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) that it is pointless to give examples here. Suffice it to say corruption is of such magnitude that it prevents the AFP from accomplishing its mission.

At the root of the AFP's flawed culture is the absence of the experience of defeat. Defeat is a Darwinian mechanism that eliminates the weak.

Defeat at the hands of Napoleon compelled the Prussian reformers—Clausewitz, Von Stettin, Scharnhorst and Gneisenau—to re-examine and discard Frederick the Great's outmoded methods and establish the tradition of military excellence that Germany has since been known for.

Germany's defeat during two world wars does not diminish the fact that its military excellence remains to this day. During World War II it was Hitler's interference in purely military affairs that led to Germany's eventual defeat.

The threat of defeat also keeps the Israeli Defense Forces in constant state of operational excellence. Defeat compels organizations to engage in profound and honest self-criticism. Institutions that fail can be discarded and replaced by organizations and procedures that work. Most importantly, defeat promotes innovation and excellent intellectual effort.

Besides not suffering defeat, the AFP has failed to recognize failure. Setbacks are rationalized as not sufficiently disastrous so that they can be mitigated or ignored. The culture of cognitive dissonance that developed within the organization encouraged commanders and their staff to ignore any fact inconsistent with official policy. And as a matter of policy, the AFP never loses disastrously. This is made painfully clear by the ludicrous practice of awarding every year a Medal of Valor, the highest Philippine military decoration, which requires individual action "above and beyond the call of duty."

Incredibly, the rebels out-bungle the AFP. The communist and secessionist rebels have scored a handful of successes here and there but these have never caused a shift in the military balance. This condition is a conflict trap: the rebels are too weak to defeat the AFP, and the AFP is too inept to defeat the rebels. This situation has smoldered for 34 years during which an estimated 160,000 lives were lost.

Comptroller cult

Deprived of the stimulus of defeat, the AFP's collective intellect began to atrophy. Criticism is discouraged. More insidiously, officers, who have risen to the highest positions, are co-opted by the inner circle of corruption run by the comptroller cult, which has become the wielder of real power in the AFP.

The only regular assessments being done in the AFP are the program reviews and analyses, a financial assessment sponsored by the comptrollers. It is always well attended mainly because of its sumptuous meals.

Setbacks are rationalized as temporary and unimportant. In the case of the campaign against the New People's Army, preoccupation with the Mindanao situation is the official explanation. Important decisions are delayed and eventually sidelined. Problems are ignored or their resolution passed on to the succeeding set of commanders. Failure is tolerated and standards lowered. Mediocrity has given way to incompetence and the AFP values and belief system, its culture, has deteriorated.

Outrage

Not all in the AFP share this culture. Individual officers are outraged and frustrated by the continuing series of failures. There are elements that recognize defeat and impending failure. In fact, it was apprehension about an impending communist victory in 1985 that provided the impetus for the Reform the Armed Forces Movement, which led to the February 1986 Edsa revolt.

In 2003, it was fear of an imminent societal collapse caused by massive corruption and widespread incompetence that drove a few junior officers to launch the failed Oakwood coup.

Corruption and incompetence are symptoms of a deeper flaw in the AFP and the defense establishment.

The AFP must transform itself or risk becoming irrelevant.

The first challenge is to accept that the AFP has to change. It has to realize that it is about to be defeated. On its present course, the AFP will increasingly isolate itself from the rest of society. Most ominously, it will lose the counterinsurgency wars that it is fighting.

The second and more difficult challenge is to determine how this change can be accomplished. It is important to realize that mere reform will no longer work in the AFP. The patient is too ill, the disease too far advanced for mere palliatives or soothing salves.

To transform itself into a competent, professional and responsive force that is a source of national pride, the AFP has to undergo organizational transformation. It has to change not only the way it does things but the way it thinks and solves problems and, more importantly, its values and beliefs. For organizational culture to change, the AFP has to start doing things in crucial areas that will send an unmistakable message throughout the organization.

What are these areas?

Organizational reform. No message would be more powerful than restructuring the AFP, especially the integration of the Department of National Defense (DND), GHQ (general headquarters) and the major service headquarters into a single command entity. This major shift will involve three components: relocation of all the major service headquarters to Camp Aguinaldo, consolidating the various staffs into two main divisions and the integration of the DND and the consolidated GHQ into one single agency.

The physical transfer of the major service headquarters to GHQ will provide the essential shake-up to overcome organizational inertia. The consolidation of the staff functions will provide the correct balance and focus between short and long-term concerns. The major service commanders, to be called "chiefs of staff" or "inspectors general" for their respective branches, shall be responsible for administration and logistics (personnel, training, logistics).

GHQ shall be responsible for operations (intelligence, operations, civil-military). All other staffs will be absorbed into the most relevant staff division. This consolidation will achieve economy, efficiency and effectiveness. Significantly, this change will relieve much of the restiveness among the junior ranks. The message it will send will be: "Now, we're starting to really do something." No other change will have a greater impact on the entire defense establishment as this one.

Fiscal reform. Exercise austerity, rationalize the AFP budget and prioritize expenditure according to its contribution to mission accomplishment. Rationalize the budget pattern. On the average 85 percent of the Army's budget goes to personnel services (salaries and allowances), 14 percent to maintenance and operations and only 1 percent for capital outlay. Equipment is falling apart. Mobility, communications and ordnance capability have deteriorated. Seek out corruption and punish the guilty.

Legislative collaboration. Establish a collaborative working relationship with Congress. This body must face up to its responsibility for national security by its decisions on the AFP budget and the laws that it passes. When the Senate terminated the US bases in 1991, it left the door open for Chinese occupation of the Spratlys. In the region, the Philippines has the distinction of having the lowest defense budget. Yet, it alone is confronted with an insurgency.

Raise bar of excellence. Recognize setbacks and take them seriously. Punish failure. Stop the annual Medal of Valor charade. Stabilize top leadership tenure. Selection will favor merit over seniority.

This is by no means a complete list but it identifies a starting point, a trail ahead.

(The author, a member of Philippine Military Academy Class of 1977, is the commander of the 402nd Brigade, based in Prosperidad, Agusan del Sur. He had held staff positions in the headquarters of the Philippine Army and the GHQ. He had undergone training in the United States, Australia and France.)

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Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

GMA health cards unpaid

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—The premiums of 390,000 indigent families in seven Central Luzon provinces have remained unpaid since April when the Arroyo administration made them members of the Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (Philhealth), INQUIRER sources said.

But Tito Mendiola, Philhealth assistant vice president in Central Luzon, said the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, which shoulders half of what the national government should pay, had already released P300 million out of the P3 billion worth of premiums due to the state-owned health firm.

The total amount covers more than two million poor families nationwide.

President Macapagal-Arroyo was criticized when she made them members of the Philhealth in the run-up to the May 10 elections, saying this was part of Ms Arroyo's strategy to win votes.

The premiums, worth P1,200 yearly, cover the whole family, including members who are 60 years old and above.

Mendiola assured that even as the Philhealth awaits full payment, it continues to honor the indigents' cards and process their claims.

"The services to poor members are neither derailed or denied," he said.

Mendiola said the Philhealth in the region processes an average of 1,000 claims and provides benefit payments worth P7 million daily for regular, self-employed, individually paying members and retirees.

The Philhealth, he said, has covered 80 percent or 6.5 million of some 8.3 million residents in Aurora, Bataan, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga, Tarlac and Zambales. It has 177 accredited hospitals and 2,600 doctors in the region.

"Philhealth has enough money to pay for health care. Our savings, investments and assets are bigger compared to what the Government Service Insurance System and Social Security System have, combined," Mendiola said.

In 2003, financial reports showed Philhealth's collections had reached P12.75 billion; benefit payments, P10.96 billion; and investments, P40.59 billion.

Execs linked to illegal logging

CATEEL, Davao Oriental—Two ranking officials in this town are in hot water after they were named as being behind the massive illegal logging here and in nearby Boston town.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources provincial office here said it was preparing illegal logging charges against provincial board member Camilo Nuñez while a Mandaya tribal leader had already filed complaints against Cateel Vice Mayor Aristotle Abella.

Benjamin Rosillo, provincial environment and natural resources officer, said a local environment group provided them evidence against Nuñez, this town's former mayor.

"We will use the evidence provided to us," said Rosillo.

He said powerful people in the province would be hurt by the charges. *Ferdinand O. Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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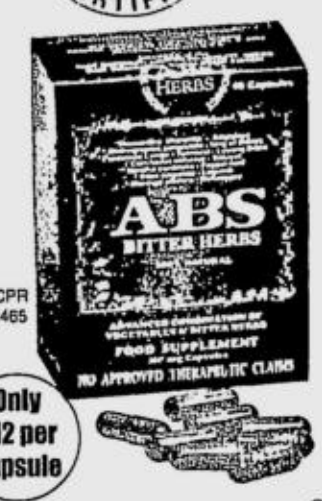

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House swamped with bills postponing village polls

By Romy G. Amarado
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—A deluge of bills that call for the postponement of next year's barangay elections has flooded the House committee on local government, chaired by Negros Oriental Rep. Emilio Macias II.

Macias said about 20 bills have been submitted by his colleagues to his committee for study and recommendation.

Based on the number of bills, he said it would appear that the sentiment of many congressmen was to postpone the barangay elections due to lack of money.

He said the government would need between P2 to P3 billion to hold the barangay elections in 2005.

Macias said some of the bills sought to move the elections to 2006.

Others, he said, want to hold it simultaneous with the local elections in 2007. Some others want the barangay elections held in 2008.

What appeared to be more popular was the proposal to hold the elections together with local elections in 2007, said Macias.

But, he added, some legislators expressed concern that voters might have a hard time writing so many names on ballots if the barangay elections would be held with local elections.

The congressman said there is another bill that seeks to adopt a block-voting scheme for barangay officials, which means, he said, that a candidate for barangay chairs should put up a slate.

In that case, Macias said a vote for a barangay captain will translate as a vote for his councilors. This will solve the problem of writing so many names in the ballots, he added.

When asked if such arrangement might politicize the barangay election, Macias replied: "I have not seen any barangay official who did not manifest any political leaning, which is expected because it is necessary for them to be able get some projects."

FAMILIARIZATION JOE GALVEZ/CONTRIBUTOR
Teachers of a school in a remote barangay of Zamboanga start to distribute donated books to pupils whose faces betray no emotion, except for a boy who appears to be sleeping, at their newfound reading treasures.

State hospital short of docs, nurses, funds

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—The Jose B. Lingad Memorial Regional Hospital here, the biggest that the government operates in Central Luzon, is running short of doctors, nurses, medicines, beds and other facilities.

And to Dr. Voltaire Pilao, one of the JBLMRH doctors, morale among the hospital's staff is also running low.

Next year when his four-year residency period is over and he is done with his diplomate test, the 35-year-old surgeon plans to work abroad, the same option that millions of Filipino health care workers have taken.

"*Gusto ko mang magsilbi sa bayan, magugutom naman ang pamilya ko* (While I want to serve my country, I could not forsake my family, they will go hungry)," Pilao said.

At salary grade 18, his monthly take home pay amounts to only P12,000. His wife, Dr. Rina Pilao, municipal health officer of Minalin, Pampanga, earns P20,000 monthly.

Their combined income, he said, would not be enough to put their two children to private schools.

Dr. Pedro Papio, JBLMRH training director, said Pilao's leaving and JBLMRH's lack of budget to hire additional doctors would further diminish the hospital's staff.

This year, the hospital should have at least 68 residents or doctors undergoing state training, he said. JBLMRH has only 44, or a deficit of 24.

"We've been feeling this in the last two years," Papio said of the reduction in the number of doctors joining the JBLMRH training program and complementing the already lean medical force.

He said many young medical graduates or even practitioners with 20 or 30 years of practice behind them had shifted careers to nursing.

Overseas, he said Filipino nurses are paid $4,000 (P225,240) a month, an amount that Pilao will need to sweat out for in less than two years.

Papio said the national trend shows medical schools are increasingly getting few enrollees and the few doctors that are around are opting to be nurses. The Philippines is now the foremost provider of nurses and caregivers worldwide.

JBLMRH alone lost 26 of its nurses since 2001. They have gone to London, the United States, Canada and Saudi Arabia, Papio said, showing a report tracking their places of employment.

Pilao said he knows 80 people in his batch at the Far Eastern University and among his friends who have shifted to nursing.

Pilao and the rest of the young doctors with JBLMRH are not only underpaid but also overworked, Papio said.

The 250-bed capacity hospital reached double capacity on Friday.

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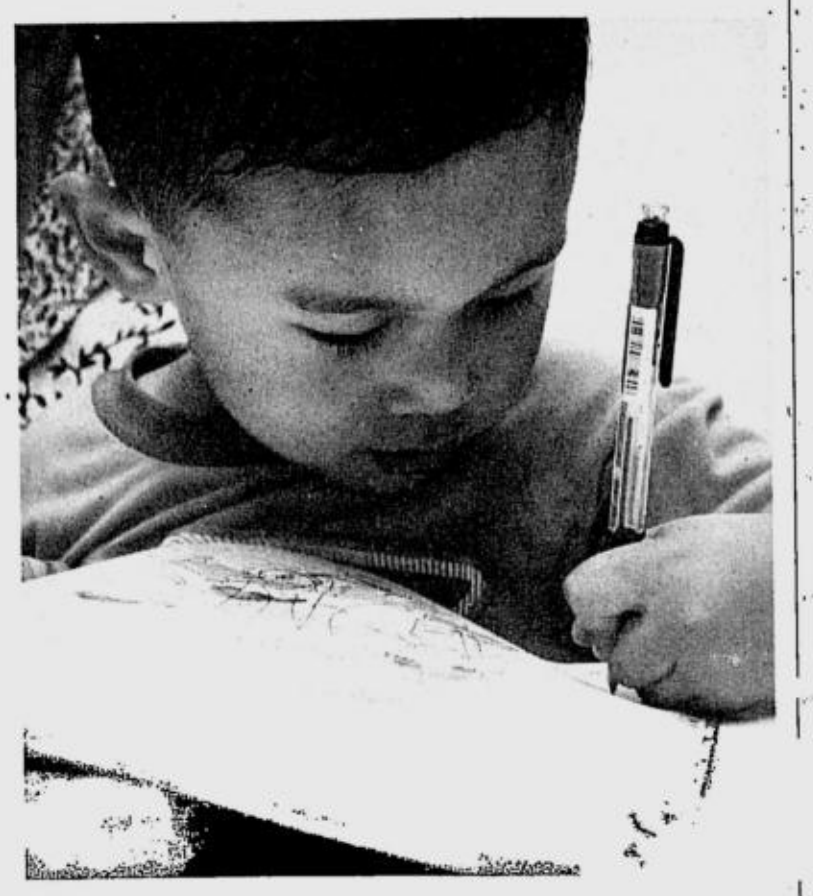
INQUIRER Mindanao

Boy Wonder's world

By Christine Godinez-Ortega
Iligan City



FOR A child who had mastered the alphabet at 15 months old and who, at two, began reading the Science Encyclopedia for Children, and, who, a year later, demanded to be sent to school, we asked Pete Abriel Laput, three years and 10 months old, what book he would be reading in case it rains for days.

"The weather in my Science book!" Pete, fondly called Dodoy, replied.

Pete's parents, Adelmo, 48, a former parish priest of Domingag, Zamboanga del Sur, and currently secretary to the Sangguniang Bayan of Mutia, Zamboanga del Sur, and Veronica, 41, a government lawyer in Dipolog City, motored to Iligan City to bring him to psychologist Dr. Miriam Cue because Pete was getting bored with his Kinder II lessons.

In June this year, Pete was enrolled in Kinder I in Dipolog City's St. Mary's Academy. He had breezed through all the lessons so the next month, he was transferred to Kinder II.

Kinder II teacher Rosely Reville told the INQUIRER over the phone that "Pete is very intelligent but he lacks concentration sometimes and he doesn't like to write down his answers."

Just the same, we went over the test papers his proud mother had brought along for Dr. Cue's inspection.

The handwriting in the workbooks were of a child's but the words were spelled correctly and written in their proper order unlike those of most kids his age.

'Walking dictionary'

This ability, Adelmo explains, may have come from his granduncle, Iktol Cabilin, known as the "walking dictionary of Dapitan," the place of exile of national hero Jose Rizal.

In his Kinder II workbooks and test papers, Pete perfected his monthly exams in Math and Computer with only one or two mistakes in English, Science, Filipino and Christian Living.

Reville said, Pete would often leave the classroom to look for a computer on the school building's third floor after his Computer class.

On an ordinary day, if Pete isn't reading, he plays with his two younger brothers and watch his favorite TV programs on the Knowledge Channel, Disney Channel, Animal Planet and Cartoon Network.

"At 10 months old, he would call out the alphabet in his sleep and would be reassured only when he could feel his books under his bed," his mother said.

Saying that there are no intelligence tests by Filipinos, Dr. Cue of the Megrez Behavioral System & Services Consultancy translated for Pete in Bisaya most of the questions and instructions from the Culture Fair Intelligence Test, Scale I; the Wechsler Primary & Pre-School Scale of Intelligence Test, and, the Full Scale IQ test for the 3-year and 10-month-old group.

Pete's IQ tests for the second day were barely over when he began to run around Cue's office.

Cue said that when Pete first arrived and when he spotted a framed verse from Matthew (12:33) on the wall, he read this promptly and with ease: "People may doubt what you say but they will always believe what you do for the tree is known and recognized and judged by its fruit."

Did he understand what he was reading? The boy only smiled.

As he began to get used to our presence, he showed us his book in Christian Living, enumerating the headings of each lesson and their corresponding page numbers. He then instructed us which page to turn reciting from memory a poem, "Beauty for the Seeing Eye," going over the sounds ("beeuuu—beeuut—beeuut—eeee") and laughing out loud at our mock surprise.

Intellectually stimulated

Dr. Lerry Lao Valdez, who has a master's degree in Reading from the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City, and a doctorate in Language Studies, said the boy may be "intellectually stimulated" but "he still has to develop emotionally, learn the visual discrimination of words as well as to associate meanings to words through his experiences and exposure," citing the Schema and William Gray's reading theories.

"He may know the grapho-phonics of words but he may not necessarily understand their meanings yet," she added.

And, if, on the other hand, this isn't an added indication of Pete's high intelligence, consider the instance when he was asked about "psychology," a word we picked at random and which he pronounced correctly.

His answer: "*Wa pa ko kabalo ana* (I don't know that yet)." And all this coming from a boy who wrote "No" to the statement: "Jesus died on the cross because of our sins." It was his only error in a 20-item test in religion.

He made the mistake because he was taking a nap when the biblical story was told to his six-year-old classmates, according to his Kinder II teacher Reville. Apparently, he is the only Kinder II pupil allowed to take a nap during class hours.

Over a week later, the IQ test results showed that on the Culture Fair Test, Scale I, Pete's IQ was 161 (Very Superior) with his mental age placed at 6.5. In the Wechsler Primary & Pre-School Scale of Intelligence Test among the 3-year and 10-month-old group, his Verbal IQ was 137 (Very Superior) while his Performance IQ was 142 (Very Superior) and 144 (Very Superior) in the Full Scale IQ test.

In her report, Cue recommends a special teacher and a special school for Pete saying that Pete "could be considered a child prodigy given the right environment, motivation and proper education." She however clarified that a child prodigy is called such after a period of 10 years when the area he excels in, whether in music or mathematics, has been established.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has instructed her staff to help the parents of 3-year-old boy wonder Pete Laput contact the Philippine Association for the Gifted. BOBBY TIMONERA

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DECLARATION ON THE MINERALS ACTION PLAN

We, the partners and members of the Regional Advisory Committee of the Foundation for the Philippine Environment unanimously:

1. Strongly support the Supreme Court's decision and urge their consistent upholding of the unconstitutionality of Financial and Technical Assistance Agreements (FTAA) as promulgated in the case of Western Mining Corporation;
2. Reject the National Minerals Policy (Executive Order 270) and scrap the draft Mineral Action Plan as another attempt to subvert the decision of the Supreme Court;
3. Continue to oppose the Mining Act of 1995 and uphold national patrimony;
4. Oppose all forms of large-scale mining as it endangers ecological balance;
5. Facilitate provision of environment-friendly livelihood opportunities to support the indigenous peoples and upland dwellers;
6. Compel government agencies to strictly implement the Local Government Code (LGC), Indigenous People's Rights Act (IPRA) and the (NIPAS Act) in relation to Social Acceptability, Free and Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) and the protection of the environment;
7. Vehemently denounce the myopic, condescending, and divisive bias against civil society as ignorant, unaware, narrow-minded and "evil" when it comes to mining concerns and issues as expressed by mining companies at National Mining Conference in December 2003;
8. Call on the President of the Republic of the Philippines and all the instrumentalities of government to respect the Supreme Court's ruling;
9. Urge all incumbent and future national leaders and legislators to enact pro-people and pro-environment laws and policies;

We call on the support of all sectors of society to oppose all forms of mining and destructive ways of utilization of our natural resources.

We believe that harnessing resources towards sustaining biodiversity conservation and sustainable development for the present and future generations is our responsibility towards God's gift of creation.

We pray that we all become faithful stewards of Mother Earth.

FPE National RAC-Partners-EAP Meeting
Sugarland Hotel, Bacolod City
July 12-16, 2004

Signed:

WENIFREDO P. MAGLANA
Maimit National Park Conservation Society

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Lumad Development Center, Inc. (LDCI) Cotabato City

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Executive Director
Miriam-P.E.A.C.E.

Police nab Quezon solon's brother for drug dealing

LUCENA CITY—Police arrested a brother of a congressman of Quezon believed to be one of the biggest drug dealers in the province and seized drugs from him.

Supt. Elmo Francis Sarona, this city's police chief, said police arrested Cerilo Alcala alias Athel, brother of Rep. Proceso Alcala and provincial board member Vicente Alcala.

Cerilo, in his middle 40s and resident of Barangay Cotta here, was arrested past noon Friday.

A police team headed by Chief Insp. Eliseo Tanding also recovered P30,000 in cash, an unlicensed cal. 22 Magnum revolver, digital weighing scale and a Nokia 5210 cellular phone.

The Alcalas are a known political clan in the province.

Cockpit fans

The patriarch, former board member Hermilando Alcala, served the city and the provincial government in various capacities and was once the province's vice governor.

Cerilo was arrested with eight other suspects aboard a Starex van bearing plate number GTY-770, while the vehicle crossed the PNR track in the village going to the cockpit arena in the outskirts of the city.

He was arrested by virtue of a warrant of arrest issued by Judge Bienvenido Mapaye of Regional Trial Court-Branch 55 on June 25 on charges of illegal possession of firearms and explosives.

Sarona said two plastic sachets were recovered from Alcala during a body search.

The four other sachets—including the gun, money and weighing scale—were discovered inside a belt bag placed under the front seat of the van.

Representative Alcala kept his distance from the incident.

"God knows how the whole family tried its best to save Athel. If he violated the law, let him suffer the full consequences of his act," the congressman said in a phone interview.

Police said they conducted two positive "test buys" from one of Alcala's networks of drug pushers on Thursday.

Top of the list

"When we were tipped off that Alcala himself would close another drug transaction inside the cockpit, we planned the arrest," Sarona said.

The police chief said Alcala has been listed as the No. 1 drug pusher operating in the city.

The suspect had several brushes with the law three years ago, also on charges of illegal drug pushing.

The suspect did not resist arrest. But he denied that the gun and illegal drug and paraphernalia belonged to him. "What I have with me was more than a hundred thousand pesos as pot money for the cockfight derby. But I don't know why the police only reported P30,000. Where's the rest?"

"I'm no longer into this illegal drug business. That's all part of the past," he was heard saying inside the police station.

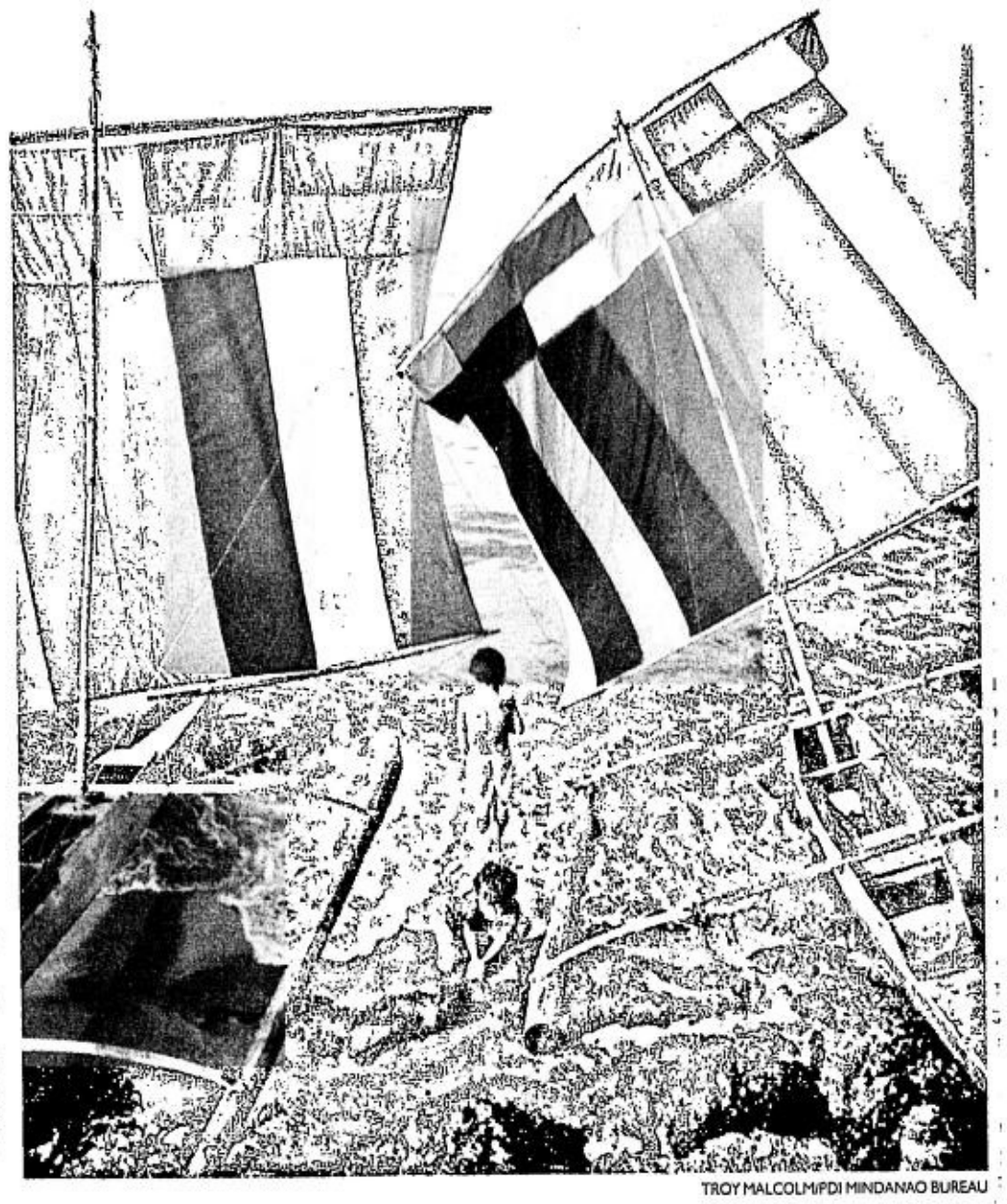
However, Alcala tested positive in a drug test that was immediately conducted after the arrest.

His companions all swore that they were not drug pushers and users.

"We're all cockfight matchmakers. We only hitched a ride with Athel in going to the cockfight," one of them told the INQUIRER.

The suspect and his companions were detained at the city jail here.

The seized crystal-clear substance has been forwarded to the police crime laboratory to determine if it is really shabu. *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*



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Badjao children play beside colorful vintas, the traditional fishing vessels that had been identified with Zamboanga City, that are docked on the shore of a boulevard in the city.

Deadline sought in solution of radioman's slay

LAOAG CITY—Ilocos Norte Gov. Ferdinand Marcos Jr. is getting impatient with the slow-paced investigation of local broadcaster Roger Mariano's slay and now wants the Philippine National Police top brass to help solve the murder.

Marcos said he had asked Director General Edgardo Aglipay, PNP chief, to meet him and the local police to set some deadlines in going after those behind the slay.

Mariano, the first provincial journalist here felled by an assassins' bullet, was killed almost three months ago. No suspects have been identified in the murder considered as work-related.

"This is taking so long. In the beginning, there was progress and after that it ceased to run. They have run out of leads. It is time to call in the big guns and solve this," Marcos said on Thursday.

In another development, the Integrated Bar of the Philippines-Ilocos Norte chapter also assailed the PNP and the National Bureau of Investigation due to what they described as their lack of interest in pursuing the murders of their former members.

Former Vice Gov. Mariano Nalupta Jr., IBP president, called the NBI, the PNP and the provincial board to a meeting to update the group on the extent of their investigation of the killings of Judge Ariston Rubio and lawyers Patrocinio Aurelio and Venancio Albano.

Nalupta said nothing has been heard of the cases to date since the three were murdered in separate incidents beginning 2001.

Marcos said he was taking a personal stance on Mariano's murder along with the series of killings that occurred after the radioman's slay.

Barely two months after Mariano's murder, six other killings took place on separate occasions in what authorities considered as perpetrated by hired guns.

The latest victim included an employee of the provincial treasurer's office, Jocelyn Lorenzo. Lorenzo and her husband were attacked on their way home on Oct. 18. Lorenzo's husband survived the attack. *Cristina Arzadon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Army says 6 Sayyaf men slain

COTABATO CITY—Continued military operations in Southcentral Mindanao last week resulted in the killing of at least six Abu Sayyaf members and their local allies, a ranking Army commander said Saturday.

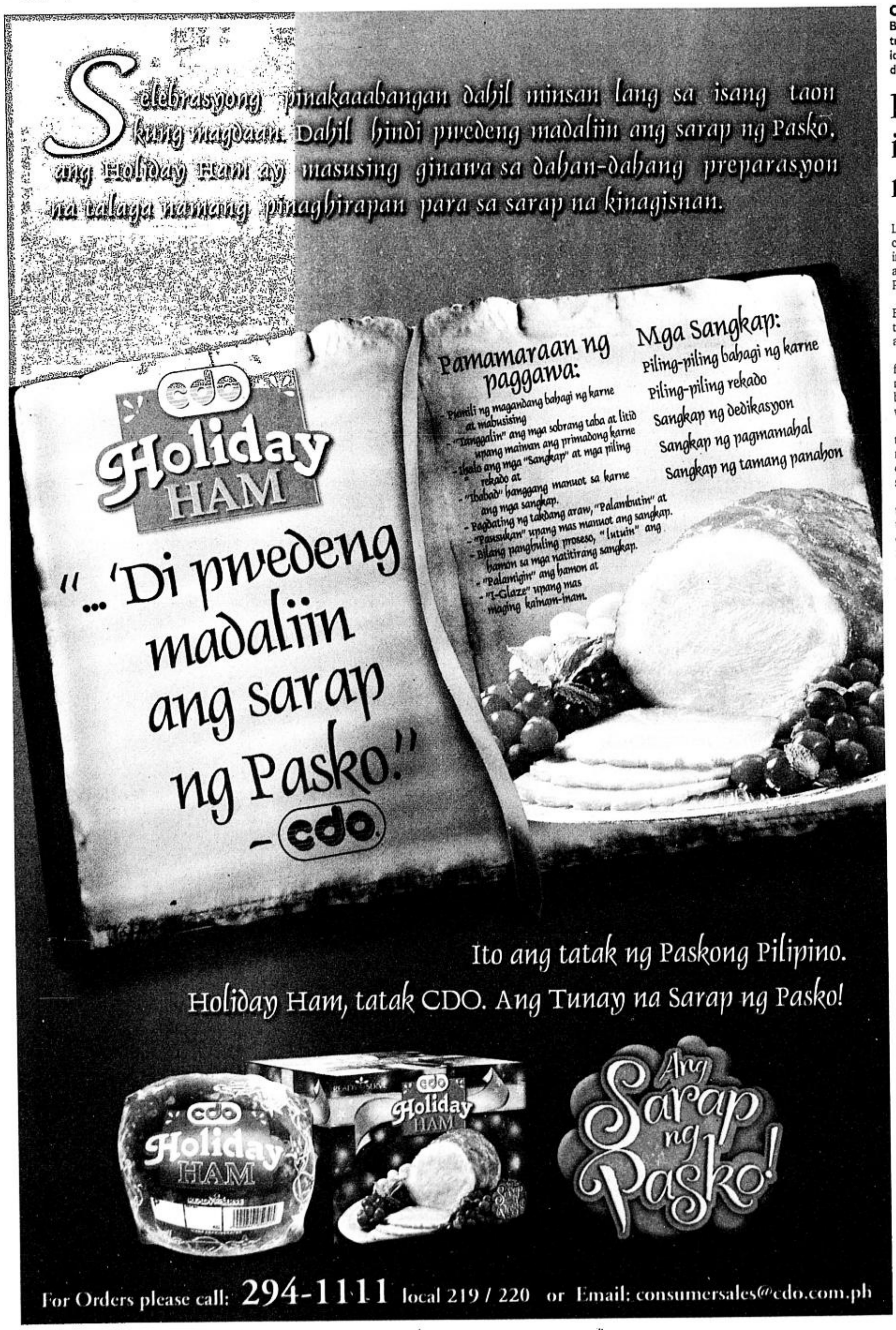
Col. Alfredo Cayton, chief of the Army's 601st Infantry Brigade, said the combined forces of the Abu Sayyaf and Abu Sofia, both linked with the Jemaah Islamiyah, have been engaging government troops in gunfights since Oct. 6 in Palimbang, Sultan Kudarat.

He said the latest encounter, where the military had to use air assault, was on Oct. 20 in Lake Sebu town in South Cotabato.

"There was no body count," explained Cayton, "because the casualties (slain and wounded) were taken along by their comrades in their withdrawal. But, according to field reports, four to six were seen being dragged and carried as they retreated."

He said the government suffered no casualty.

Cayton said the Abu Sayyaf under Khadaffy Janjalani and Isnilon Hapilon have been leading the bandits. They merged with the Abu Sofia, which is responsible for a series of kidnappings. *Charlie Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



'PA-ITLOG ITLOG'

Petty corruption starts in PMA, says Abaya

By Frank Cimatu and Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

FORT DEL PILAR, Baguio City—Corruption begins at home.

Gen. Narciso Abaya, Armed Forces chief of staff, said yesterday corruption charges against some Philippine Military Academy alumni had their roots in their cadet days at the PMA.

Abaya called this culture of corruption "*pa-itlog-itlog na nagiging manok*" (eggs that become chickens)" in his speech during the 106th Foundation Day of the PMA here.

Abaya, who will retire on Friday, said the cadets have this term for petty extortion.

"'Shabbity,' the euphemism that is used for petty extortion, has no place in the officer development process. As shared by another PMA alumnus in the (congressional) hearings (on alleged military corruption), petty extortions are tolerated infractions that give rise to the culture of corruption," he said.

"I reiterate the relevance of eradicating malpractices, especially the practice of obtaining personal favors under the guise of developing followership and military obedience in a subordinate," Abaya told cadets and guests, who included United States Ambassador Francis Ricciardone.

But Abaya defended the foundations of the academy.

"Fort del Pilar is where the lessons of history and the venerable academy traditions combine to shape the future of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, and I would even venture to say every institution aligned to Philippine defense and security," he said.

But he admitted the PMA always took the brunt for scandals plaguing the military.

"It has been espoused by some that it is the PMA's ideal environment that should be blamed for deceptively conditioning the minds of the cadets that everything exists in black and white," he said.

"With minds nurtured in a world detached from reality, it is argued that the PMA, in a way, distorts the cadet's world view." Abaya said the readily available amenities and privileges contribute to the charade as these develop a misconception of what PMA graduates could expect from a life in the military service.

Abaya, a member of Class 1971, said critics fail to see PMA's impact on developing character.

"In PMA, there are rules, but outside its walls, they are at best only guides. Often there will be deviations in actions and judgments in military service and at the end of the day, a (moral compass) should unmistakably point to only true north the very values of courage, integrity and loyalty," he said.

Maj. Gen. Cristolito Balaoing, PMA superintendent, said the PMA continues to pursue these goals, despite its fiscal deficit.

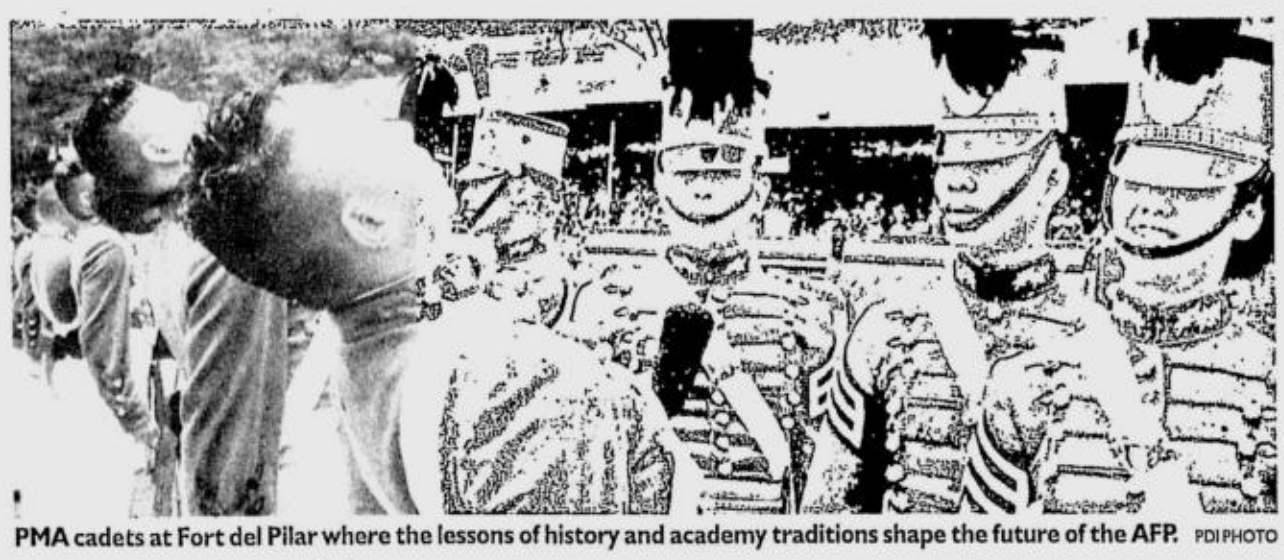
He said the PMA would continue to run on a deficit after previous administrations increased the number of its cadet enrollees with the guarantee that it would receive a higher budget in 2003.

"But the government reenacted the 2002 budget, so we had to rely on (Abaya to send us more funds) for 2003 and 2004," Balaoing said.

Prospects of a second reenacted budget for 2005 could jeopardize PMA operations further, he said.

He said the PMA is running an inventory of all its operations to determine how to cut back on expenses. The PMA is retiring a giant Hollywood-style lighted billboard bearing the PMA acronym, he said.

Built by Class 1970 during the term of retired Maj. Gen. Rufo de Veyra, a former PMA superintendent, the PMA sign has been damaged by typhoons and is costing the PMA huge electricity bills to operate, Balaoing said.



PMA cadets at Fort del Pilar where the lessons of history and academy traditions shape the future of the AFP. PDI PHOTO

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ABAYA: Three words to answer the text jokes—courage, integrity and loyalty, the PMA's motto. PDI PHOTO

Abaya: Man in a hurry to retire away from line of fire

From page A1

would speed up the days, hours, seconds and ticks to Oct. 29, my retirement day," Abaya said in a speech during the PMA's 106th anniversary here on Saturday.

He described the recent cases involving PMA alumni, including his Class 1971 mistah (classmate) Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia, as "sensational."

"The pride and prestige of the academy have never seen darker days," he told cadets and guests who included US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone.

Text jokes

Abaya said he was irked by the text jokes which said that the PMA had become the "Philippine Millionaires Academy," in the light of the corruption scandal rocking the military.

The PMA, one of the most prestigious military training institutions in Asia, marked its 106th Foundation Day on Saturday.

"During the congressional hearings, an alumnus (in the House of Representatives) expressed dismay over the text messages going around maligning the academy. In this age of technology and unbridled intrigue, surely they had found their way to the corps," he said.

Abaya said cadets needed only three words to answer these text messages: Courage, integrity and loyalty—the PMA's motto.

He also called on PMA cadets to stand by the academy's honor code amid the controversy.

"The challenge to regain the glory is a tall order, but there is no doubt in my mind that with characteristic resilience, an indomitable spirit and a reform agenda founded on proper values, we will overcome," he said.

Remain united

Maj. Gen. Cristolito Balaoing, PMA superintendent, said the recent crisis should unite the PMA.

"Our profession once again is tainted and bruised. But while the wind blows fiercely today upon the military profession and upon this institution, we should remain united, believing as we have a few times in the past, that we shall overcome these questions on our integrity and relevance as an institution," Balaoing, a member of Class 1972, said.

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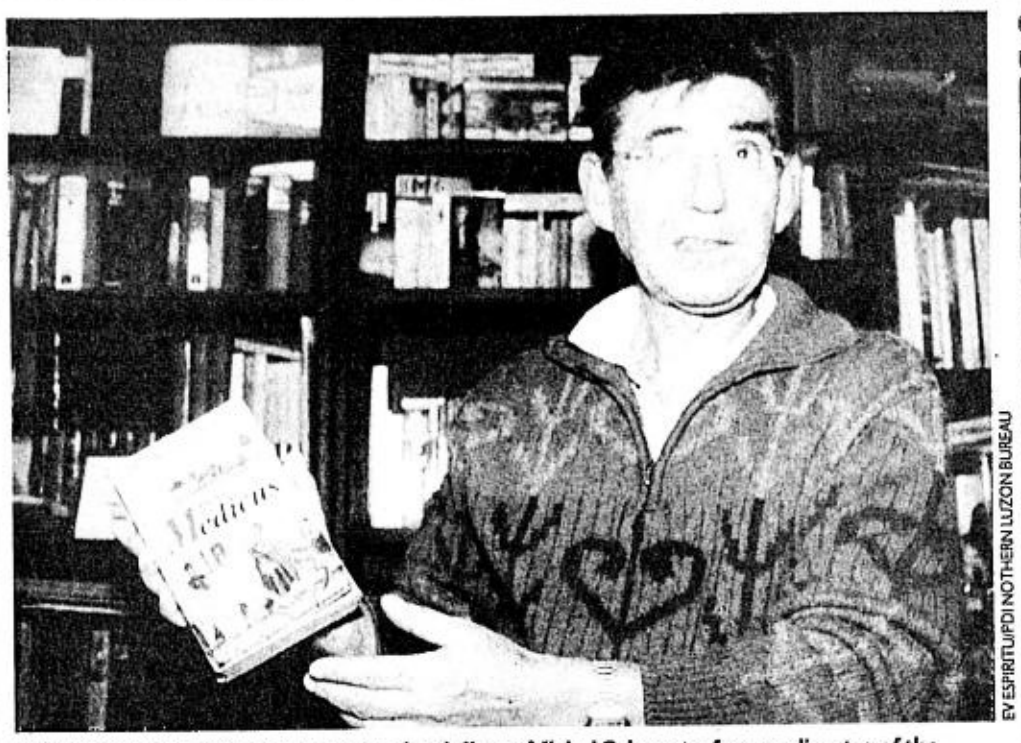

EV ESPIRITU/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

"MY DAUGHTER'S favorite German book," says Michel Schwartz, former director of the German Defense Ministry High Office on Research and Development who taught many Filipino senior military officials about ethics and tactical skills at the German General Staff College. But the country's deficit problems forced the AFP to discontinue the German exchange program.

THE PRIDE and joy of her parents, Dr. Norma Schwartz, 26, serves at the Bundeswehr Krakenhaus in Berlin with a rank equivalent to captain in the AFP. PHOTO REPRODUCTION

Father of first and only Filipina doctor in German army mentor to RP generals

From page A1

mand; Brig. Gen. Romeo Dominguez, commanding general of the Northern Luzon Command, and Ong.

German ethics

He said he was "disturbed" though not surprised by the controversy involving Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia, the former AFP comptroller who is accused of stashing away millions of dollars in ill-gotten wealth.

Schwarts said none of his students were involved in any misdemeanors while in the service, a fact that he ascribed to the tough discipline of German military ethics.

"Germans are blunt and forward because that's how we become honest. We strategize, we plan ahead, and we follow that path. We taught that to [your generals]," he said.

"In fact you have very, very good generals, very honest generals in this country. They know that the world is changing," he added.

He said the Filipino generals that he taught underwent their training in Germany at a time the German nation was also changing, with the collapse of the Berlin Wall that used to divide the democratic West from the communist East.

Ong, who studied under Schwartz as a colonel in 1980, said the evolution of German military tactics and philosophies also took into account the loss of the Soviet threat, which altered how the military viewed world politics.

Shunning war in Iraq

Schwartz said this thinking accounts for Germany's resistance to the United States-led war on Iraq. The German military, he said, was more concerned with restoring countries and rescuing besieged nations.

Ong said Filipino military officers who were presented this German world view are slowly introducing this concept to Philippine military policies.

He said the German courses were the best he had ever had among the foreign studies that he went through.

"Captain Schwartz's rise in German military service is comforting because she retains the link between generations of Philippine military officers and the German Army," said Ong.

"Norma is probably the only Filipina today with a real and intimate connection to every Filipino general because of her father. Generals came to their house often. I remember Norma as a 2-year-old. She was still drinking her milk, but I think she will remember me," he added.

Leyte health care grads help reverse brain drain

From page A1

er their babies, their patients they nursed back to health and the elderly whose hands they had held as they moved on to the next life.

They are the graduates of the School for Health Sciences here, who have chosen to serve in the country's poorest communities, eschewing the opportunity to join the exodus of health workers abroad.

An affiliate of the University of the Philippines-Manila, the UP-PGH SHS was inspired by China's system of training "barefoot" doctors and has in its own way reversed the out-migration trend among Filipino health workers.

For the past 27 years, the school has been turning out doctors, nurses, midwives and barangay health workers, about 97 percent of whom have chosen to serve in the rural areas.

For 21-year-old Art Domingo of Tibiao, Antique, whose ambition in life was to go to Manila and work in a factory, a scholarship to the SHS was a godsend.

He never thought he would amount to anything having had to work since the fifth grade just to be able to remain in school.

Education a luxury

Education was a luxury in the Domingo household, as his father passed away when he was six. His mother, who barely finished school herself, was left to support six children.

Domingo did not have to pass an entrance exam, nor did he have to show excellent grades. All that was asked of him was a commitment to serve his community when he finished.

Not that he needed to be convinced as all he wanted was to return home and apply what he had learned to help his barangay and his province.

Domingo did not disappoint the town that recommended him as he took third place in the 2003 midwifery board examinations and is just months away from getting his nursing degree, also from the SHS.

He has since delivered many babies into the world and has often been called to minister to the sick in his barangay of 630 households.

He often tells his sick town mates that he still does not know enough to be able to cure them but is invariably told that that his mere willingness to help somehow eases their pain.

He does not mind that more often than not all he gets for his services are bundles of kang kong, fruits, chicken and cooked food.

Community embrace

"The way the community has embraced me is touching. It fills my heart with joy and I am happy that our house is the same with its earthen floor. At least people are not shy to come in. And hearing them say that I was able to help them makes all the difficulties worthwhile," he said.

A classmate of Domingo's, Anna Rose Subario, topped the midwifery exams last year and will graduate as a nurse next April.

Subario, who comes from Dagami, a 5th-class municipality of Leyte, said she wanted to become a health worker mainly because she grew up in a community that was so poor many of its members were left to die from not having any money for medicine.

And even if they had the money, there was no doctor or medical practitioner around to help in emergencies.

Subario vowed to herself that one day she would be in a position to help.

It's only money

She got the chance to do so when she was chosen by the local government to take the slot reserved for Dagami at the SHS.

ANNA Rose Subario and Art Domingo: No supermen, but super heroes in the depressed, doctor-less, rural communities.

"I did not know what to expect when I got in, but through the years the school remolded me into something else. They developed my skills and made me realize that I could do so much to help my community," she said.

Subario said she had no plans of joining other nurses making a beeline for the recruitment offices of hospitals in the United States and Canada, although the prospect of earning a lot of money is tempting.

"I just think to myself that if everyone leaves, who will be left to take care of the people who need medical attention? I guess I am still idealistic but I owe it to my community to stay and besides, it is just money," she said.

Subario and Domingo credit their bias for the community to the training that they got from the SHS, whose ladder-type curriculum is unique among institutions of higher learning.

Ladder-type curriculum

The UP-SHS was set up by the UP Board of Regents in 1976 in response to the grim health manpower situation then, which is still very much true at present.

At the time, more than half of the medical graduates were leaving for abroad, felt most acutely among graduates of state medical colleges, where three out of every five graduates went overseas.

In 1973, 35 percent of nurses left the country and of the 7,129 nurses in public service, only 15 percent were in the rural areas.

The UP College of Medicine decided to develop a medical program designed to address the specific health needs of rural communities.

The heart of the program is the step-ladder curriculum in which students learn to become a barangay health workers, midwives, nurses and doctors in a single, sequential and continuous curriculum.

In as little as 11 weeks, a student is certified as a barangay health worker. If he wants to pursue further studies, he can enroll for another six quarters in the Community Health Worker Program, qualifying as a midwife.

Midwives can choose to stay another five quarters to earn a nursing degree, and 20 more quarters to qualify to be a medical doctor.

Biggest midwifery school

The SHS has graduated over 1,218 midwives, making it the country's biggest midwifery school. Almost all of the graduates, or 93 percent, passed the board, many of them finishing in the top 10.

In between the program levels is the service or home leave of at least three months, where the scholars apply what they have learned in communities.

"I would say that over half of the time that they spend here is spent in the community. Many of them live with foster families. This exposure make them realize the dire need for their help in depressed areas, making them want to stay in the country," said SHS Dean Romeo O. Ceniza.

Ceniza says with pride that as of July 2004, only three out of the school's 100 medical graduates are abroad. Many are municipal health officers and medical officers at the district and general hospitals.

Of the 207 nursing graduates, only 26 or 13 percent are abroad. About 20 percent are public health nurses and 14 percent are staff nurses in district hospitals. Less than 4 percent of the midwifery graduates are abroad.

Initially, 70 percent of SHS's first graduates came from the Eastern Visayas, but the share has dropped to 30 percent by 2004.

100 slots yearly

The school opens about 100 slots every year and scholars enjoy free tuition. They are given a living subsidy of P1,300, which is provided by their communities, plus a quarterly book allowance of P250.

The slots are distributed to regions with a need for community workers, based on health statistics, population and economic status. Recruitment and admission do not put a premium on academic performance.

This is not to say that the scholars at the SHS cannot hold their own against students from other schools.

The SHS has a 100 percent pass rate for nursing graduates that took the board, 93 percent for midwives and 80 percent for medical doctors. In fact, the 5th and 10th placers in the 2004 medical board exam came from SHS.

"What is unique to us is our focus on community service," Ceniza said.

One could argue that the SHS graduates have no choice but to stay because of a requirement that they should serve for at least two years for every year that they stay in school, which runs up to 17 years for a doctor.

But as Ceniza points out, this requirement was only enforced in the late 1990s. The early graduates could have chosen to leave, but majority did not, like Domingo and Subario.

Self-esteem

"It does something to my self-esteem to hear people say, there is that boy who still works the rice field with his mother, but who has gone a long way," said Domingo.

Domingo has even started teaching his 56-year-old mother to read.

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Sister Eden and the joy of healing

By Ester G. Dipasupil

SHE HAD trekked through perilous upland trails and climbed difficult mountains armed with a trusty guitar and crumpled sheet music in a backpack, to pockets in the hinterlands where she did community development work with tribal groups.

The world, then, had seemed bright and full of promise for Sister (Sr.) Eden Orlino.

Then, the easygoing nun with a sunny disposition who had wielded a mean volleyball and skateboard in school, felt something wasn't just right.

An unusual feeling

"I was always running a fever and found myself drained at the end of the day, something I was not used to despite the arduous schedule that I had kept," recalled Sr. Eden. "When I settled down to sleep, I would feel a huge boulder pinning me down."

On a routinary check, doctors found a tumor in her breast. The prognosis wasn't good: the lump had metastasized in her lymph nodes.

What could have been a death sentence for many—Stage 3, they said—turned out to be the beginning of a new life—and advocacy for the nun.

Sr. Eden went through four rounds of chemotherapy to arrest the cancerous cells that fast multiplied—"but they had to give me double doses because, as you can see, I am quite chubby," she said. The next step: linear accelerator or radiation treatments for 33 days—"except Christmas and New Year's Day."

New strength

The treatments didn't run her down. Instead, she felt she had gained new strength.

"I didn't go through the denial and bargaining stages of grief," she said. "I wanted only one thing—help in curing and getting over the cancer."

One of the things that also crossed her mind was the fact that she would have to give up the work that she loved so much—helping indigenous people. "I rejected the notion that I would be utterly worthless or helpless in whatever I was doing. In short, I didn't give up."

SISTER Eden Orlino is a picture of health and well-being as she relates her battle with cancer and how her ordeal has led her to helping victims of the disease. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Today, four years after that grim diagnosis, Sr. Eden hardly looks scarred by the experience.

"I'm in remission, meaning the cancer cells had not been active," she told INQUIRER. "Every six months, though, I need to have a check-up—blood tests, X-rays, that sort of thing. After that, *sabi ko sa sarili ko, nakalampas na naman ako ng anim na buwan* (I told myself, I've made it through another six months)."

The cancer did not prevent her from continuing her work with the tribes but also gave her advocacy another dimension.

"Instead of feeling defeated, or sulking in a corner and wondering why I was 'chosen' as a cancer patient, I looked at the experience in a positive light," she revealed. "I can even say that I wouldn't know how to live my life today without the cancer in me."

Since her battle with what many call the dreaded C, Sr. Eden has made it her personal advocacy to counsel cancer patients about the disease and how the battle can be fought with the right attitude and perspective.

On bedside visits, she advises patients bound for their first chemo session to "imagine the chemo medicine coursing through your veins, like powerful rays of light killing the cancerous cells and replacing them with healthy ones. Of course, there must be faith in the Almighty to complete the healing."

Faith in the household

Faith was a staple in the Orlino household when the children were growing up. "I wasn't exactly the religious type. As a matter of fact, I had not joined either the Sodality or the Student Catholic Action," confessed the nun, who said she had gotten into a few scrapes and "some naughty escapades" in her youth. Her parents were her role models: Pilar Lambino of Calasiao, Pangasinan, who was raised as a Protestant but later converted to Roman Catholicism, and Antonio Orlino, a military man from Bani, also in Pangasinan, who was a disciplinarian "but never failed to show his love for us."

In their teens, the Orlino girls were sent to Manila for high school at St. Paul's College. Eden and older sister Estrellita were as different as they came. She was the school prankster with a keen sense of humor, Estrellita the reserved one.

Sister musicians

But when it was time for career options, both chose to enroll at the conservatory of music, with Estrellita winding up as a double major (voice and music education) and Eden tucking in a bachelor's in music education.

A novice when she was 18 at the Our Lady of Chartres convent in Antipolo, Eden eventually took the route Estrellita had taken earlier, joining the same apostolic congregation, the Sisters of St. Paul of Chartres.

After taking the vows, her mission work brought her to outposts in Cebu, Zamboanga, Ilocos Sur and Bulacan. In Pagadian, she coaxed students to make musical instruments out of native materials like bamboo. She also began composing songs, and has written about 15 hymns for church functions. But she has stopped her songwriting for the moment "because I am decomposing," she joked.

Apart from her cancer advocacy (October is also Breast Cancer Awareness Month), Sr. Eden, now on temporary detail at St. Paul's Makati, directs media activities for the centennial celebration of the congregation which starts today with a pictorial exhibit at St. Paul's Manila.

Like her fellow nuns at St. Paul's who actively work in schools, hospitals, or with the poor, Sister Eden feels strongly about her mission in life.

"In this regard, having cancer is something that I have welcomed because it gave me a chance to do more for my fellowmen, knowing that I could go anytime," she said. "I always tell cancer patients that, in a sense, we are luckier than those who don't have it because it gives us time to ponder on what we want to do with our lives."

Competitive edge

Sr. Eden calls this her "competitive edge," then excuses herself for using a phrase she shyly admits was acquired when she was a Master's in Development Management student at the prestigious Asian Institute of Management. "God has given me time to prepare," she said, "and having cancer has taught me something that is so basic that it hits your heart and soul when the time of reckoning comes: what have you done for Him and for your neighbor?"

Her joyful spirit is matched by an enthusiasm for life that she knows could end tomorrow, next week, or maybe, if she's lucky, in 50 years.

"I'm still struggling and it's an uphill battle, but I'd like to think I'm prepared," she said. "I know my God has given me the grace to fill my days. I'm not asking Him for tomorrow, for next month, or next year. All I ask for is the moment."

Sr. Eden can be reached for counseling at 0917-5680231. Or call 890-4231/8968369, in the evening.

METROBRIEFS

Mayor uncovers fake tax in Taguig

TAGUIG Mayor Freddie Tinga yesterday told retail stores in the town to stop charging consumers local taxes because the local government was not charging such taxes. In a press statement, the Taguig government said the mayor made the rounds of establishments at Fort Bonifacio and discovered that two popular food outlets were charging municipal taxes as stipulated on their receipts. He called on consumers to check their receipts when patronizing business establishments in Taguig and to immediately report to his office those found illegally creating their own taxes to the detriment of the buying public. Complaints may be coursed through 628-3627 or Taguig's text center 0920-2093413. *Nancy C. Carvajal*

Another Manila inmate dies

AS THE country prepares to observe the National Correctional Consciousness Week, an inmate at the Manila City Jail died from an illness Friday. Robbery suspect Alfredo Tolibas, 41, died at the hospital after suffering from loose bowel movement. *By Leila B. Salaverria*

Bombs, explosives found in QC lot

THE CENTRAL Police District has beefed up security in Quezon City after the discovery of explosives and ammunition on Friday at a vacant lot on Sampaguita Avenue corner Cerillo Street, Barangay Holy Spirit at around 10:35 a.m. Found in a blue carton were 10 boxes of charge demolition M112, said to be a component of C4 plastic explosive; 18 boxes of .308 Winchester bullets with each box containing 20 pieces each, and three bundles of chain containing more or less 560 live ammunitions. CPD Director Senior Supt. Nicasio Radovan said the discovery followed reports from a concerned resident about at least three suspicious-looking men roaming the area. *Tina G. Santos*

Folk told to watch over their homes

WITH just over a week before All Souls Day, the police sternly reminded Metro Manila residents not to leave their houses unattended as they trek to the cemeteries or go on a holiday break. If no one could be left to look after the place, they should reinforce their locks, advised Chief Supt. Oscar Valenzuela of the Eastern Police District. He noted that robbers take advantage of the residents' exodus to the provinces to observe All Souls Day. *Luige A. del Puerto*

Couples for Christ launches health drive

GAWAD Kalinga, Couples for Christ's (CFC) alternative plan of action to address the country's problems on poverty, has launched its health component called Gawad Kalusugan. Gawad Kalusugan, in a partnership with United Laboratories and CFC, went to Arkong Bato in Kapitolyo, Pasig, to address tuberculosis among residents. Unilab has pledged its support in the treatment of those found positive with TB since they have the resources and the medicine.

La Union Class of 65 holds grand reunion

MEMBERS of La Union High School Class of 1964-1965 are invited to a grand reunion on Dec. 18 to be held in San Fernando. The venue of the event will be announced later. For details, please call (in Metro Manila) Violy de la Cuesta-Baizas at 952-7466 or 953-1192, or at cell no. 0915-5542900. For alumni in La Union, you may call Rose Gaerlan at cell no. 0917-7470037 or Jess Nebres at cell no. 0918-3356757

Slain Manila policeman gets hero's farewell

By Leila B. Salaverria

IT WAS a farewell fit for a hero.

Family, friends and colleagues yesterday bade farewell to Supt. Manolo Martinez, who was hailed as a brave and daring man, and one of Manila's finest.

The 54-year-old veteran of the Western Police District (WPD) was posthumously awarded the Medalya ng Kadakilaan then later cremated at the La Funeraria Paz in Quezon City, where he was honored with a 21-gun salute.

He was ambushed on Monday as he was getting out of his car at the parking lot of the WPD's Sta. Mesa police station.

Martinez's only son Fritz spoke during the necrological service of the pain that came with knowing that his father's life could never be brought back even if his killers were arrested.

Comfort in remembrance

But he said the family was taking comfort in remembering all the good he had done and all the love he had showered on them.

"We will never hear him speak or feel the warmth of his love. But we will rest with a cheerful heart knowing he will always be a part of our hearts," he said.

"We ask each and everyone not to let anything get in the way of what we believe is right," Fritz, holding back tears and his voice breaking, said. "Follow his teachings."

A part of Martinez will continue to live on, as his corneas have been donated to the eye bank, an institution Martinez quietly helped by facilitating the donation of over 6,000 corneas.

Fritz said his father had always reminded them that he had a risky job, and that as his only son he must be strong for the family.

TEARS FOR PAPA. Lucila, the widow of Supt. Manolo Martinez, weeps as she views the remains of the veteran Manila policeman for the last time. The remains of Martinez were cremated yesterday. RAFFY LERMA

Fellow policemen honored Martinez, who rose from the ranks as he served the force for 32 years.

"Our loss is beyond words. We mourn his passage even as we celebrate the life he lived," said Director Avelino Razon, chief of the National Capital Region Police Office and a former Manila policeman.

He said Martinez always accepted duty and responsibility with an open and intelligent mind and always exhibited courage and gallantry.

Razon vowed that Martinez's legacy of doing right would live on.

"He did not die in vain," Razon said.

He also described Martinez as someone committed to the cause of peace, a nemesis of criminals and at the same time a loyal and loving man to his family.

"He was truly an officer and a gentleman," he said.

WPD director Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong described Martinez as a hard-hitting and hardworking policeman who was always efficient in doing his job.

At various times, Martinez served as commander of Manila's 11 police stations and of the various WPD operating units during his career.

Manila Mayor Lito Atienza said Martinez had been a policeman who truly loved the city and did his best to make it peaceful and orderly.

"Manolo was always bringing criminals to justice," he said, adding that the slain officer had his heart and mind in the right place.

Martinez's wife Lucila, who in the succeeding days after his death had remained calm and strong in interviews, broke down in wracking sobs as she went along with their three children and three grandchildren to view her husband's remains in a coffin.

She had earlier described her husband as a strict but loving man and one whose heart easily melted in compassion for others.

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BASEBALL: MLB World Series - Cardinals vs Red Sox , Game One; 7:30 a.m. (r-1:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.); ESPN - Boston will be making its first Fall Classic appearance since 1986 while St. Louis last made it in 1987.

MOTOR SPORTS: F1 Brazil Grand Prix Qualifying; 2:30 p.m. and 7:45 p.m. (r); Star Sports; Race Day; midnight: Star Sports: tomorrow at 1 a.m.; Sports Plus - Can Michael Schumacher close out the F1 season with another checkered flag?

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

SPORTS TV

Compiled by L. Mangulat

Magnolia downs Montaña in 2 OT

By Jasmine W. Payo

LOOKS like it would be another unpredictable conference as Magnolia Ice Cream needed two extra periods to brush off the Montaña Jewels, 82-75, yesterday at the start of the PBL Open Championship at the Pasig Sports Center.

Arwind Santos delivered 15 points and 18 rebounds while RJ Rizada added 13 points for the Magnolia five, winner of the Unity Cup as Viva Mineral Water-FEU several months ago.

Earlier, Toyota Otis-Letran stunned the favored Welcoat Paints, 63-52, with balanced scoring led by Aaron Aban and Dennis Daa.

"I told them that if we limit Welcoat to less than 60 points, we have a chance to win. We just let (Anthony) Washington score so their other players like (Chester) Tolomia and (Jay-R) Reyes won't be involved. It's hard to win by relying only on one player," said coach Louie Alas after scoring his first win against last conference's losing finalist.

GAMES TUESDAY
(Pasig Sports Center)
2 p.m.—Addict Mobile-Ateneo vs Air Philippines
4 p.m.—Granny Goose vs ICTSI-La Salle

Washington was the day's top shooter with 19 points.

Montaña could have wrapped up the game earlier, but Alwin Espiritu split his freethrows, 3.8 seconds remaining in the first overtime period.

Cesar Catli and Warren Ybañez then uncorked three-pointers as Magnolia finally seized control in the second overtime, 77-72.

Montaña threw the game into overtime after Ismael Junio nailed a triple in the dying seconds.

Toyota Otis-Letran opened the final quarter with a 13-4 rally for a 59-49 lead. Two consecutive baskets from 6-foot-7 rookie Mark Andaya gave them the biggest lead of the ballgame, 63-49.

The scores:

First Game

TOYOTA OTIS-LETRAN 63—Aban 11, Daa 10, Andaya 9, Enrile 9, Macapagal 8, Bautista 6, Alcaraz 6, Abadia 2, Dula 2, Rodriguez 0, Coronel 0.

WELCOAT 52—Washington 19, Ortiguerra 7, Tolomia 6, Najorda 6, Gamboa 4, Guevarra 4, Dy 4, Sta. Maria 2, Dulay 0, Tan 0, Reyes 0.

Quarters: 17-18, 35-28, 46-45, 63-52.

Second Game

MAGNOLIA 82—Santos 15, Rizada 13, Catli 9, Jones 9, Isip 8, Ybañez 7, Co 7, Raneses 7, Miranda 5, Yabut 2, Misolas 0.

MONTAÑA 75—Magpayo 16, Capus 13, Salvador 12, Bagulon 9, Junio 8, Vergara 7, Guerrero 3, Mercado 2, Dela Cuesta 2, Espiritu 2, Baluyot 1, Juntilla 0.

Quarters: 7-17, 23-32, 41-47, 62-62 (regulation), 65-65 (first OT), 82-75.

DANCERS provide entertaining number during the PBL opening ceremony. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

MASTER William Soon displays the form that won for him a gold medal in the traditional weapons event of the recent World Traditional Wushu Festival in China.

RP wushu team pockets 5 golds

THE PHILIPPINE team made a smashing performance in the recent World Traditional Wushu Festival in Zheng Zhou City, Hunan province, China, by winning 17 medals, including five golds.

Master Henri Lo of the Kong Han Martial Arts Club led the RP charge by capturing two gold medals in the event which lured 2,300 athletes from more than 60 countries.

The other gold winners were Master William Soon of Ling Nam Athletic Club, Master Lou Mei Cheng of Mei Cheng Shaolin Kung Fu and the doubles team of Lester Pimentel and Richard Ng.

Soon, Cheng and Ng also bagged a silver medal each.

The other medalists were Thomas Pradel (two silvers), Henry Sy (one silver and one bronze), Richard Haw (one silver and one bronze), Ana Tongco (two bronzes), and Vincent Borromeo and the doubles squad of Josephine Lim and Ma. Lourdes Chan, one bronze each.

Traditional wushu's routine, introduced thousands of years ago, puts more emphasis on self-defense and fighting form, unlike today's wushu competition which is more sports-oriented.

More than 40,000 Shaolin monks performed during the opening ceremony held at the Shaolin Temple, birthplace of Chinese martial arts.

Francis Chan, honorary president of the Wushu Federation of the Philippines, presented a thesis on traditional wushu in a congress held during the festival.

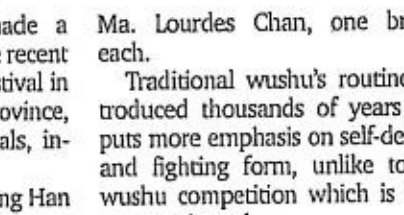
RP delegation leader Alvin Tailian praised the RP team composed mostly of masters from different local martial arts clubs for its remarkable showing.

Master Lo and Pimentel, a former world wushu champion, were the coach and captain, respectively, of the team.

WHAT'S INSIDE

■ KDJM Derby on today at San Lazaro tracks /A30

■ Agojo's 71 boosts RP golfers to 26th place /A31



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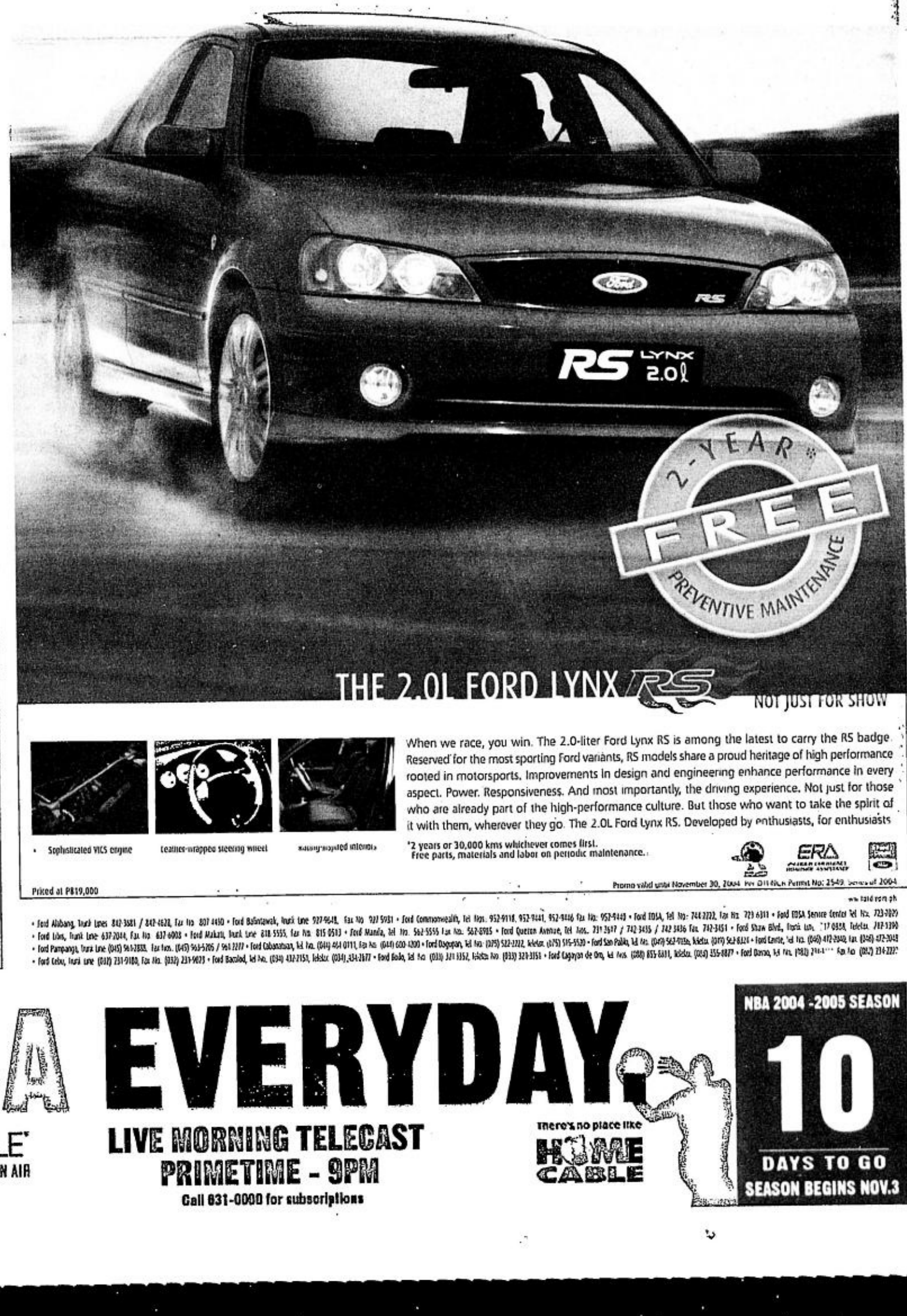

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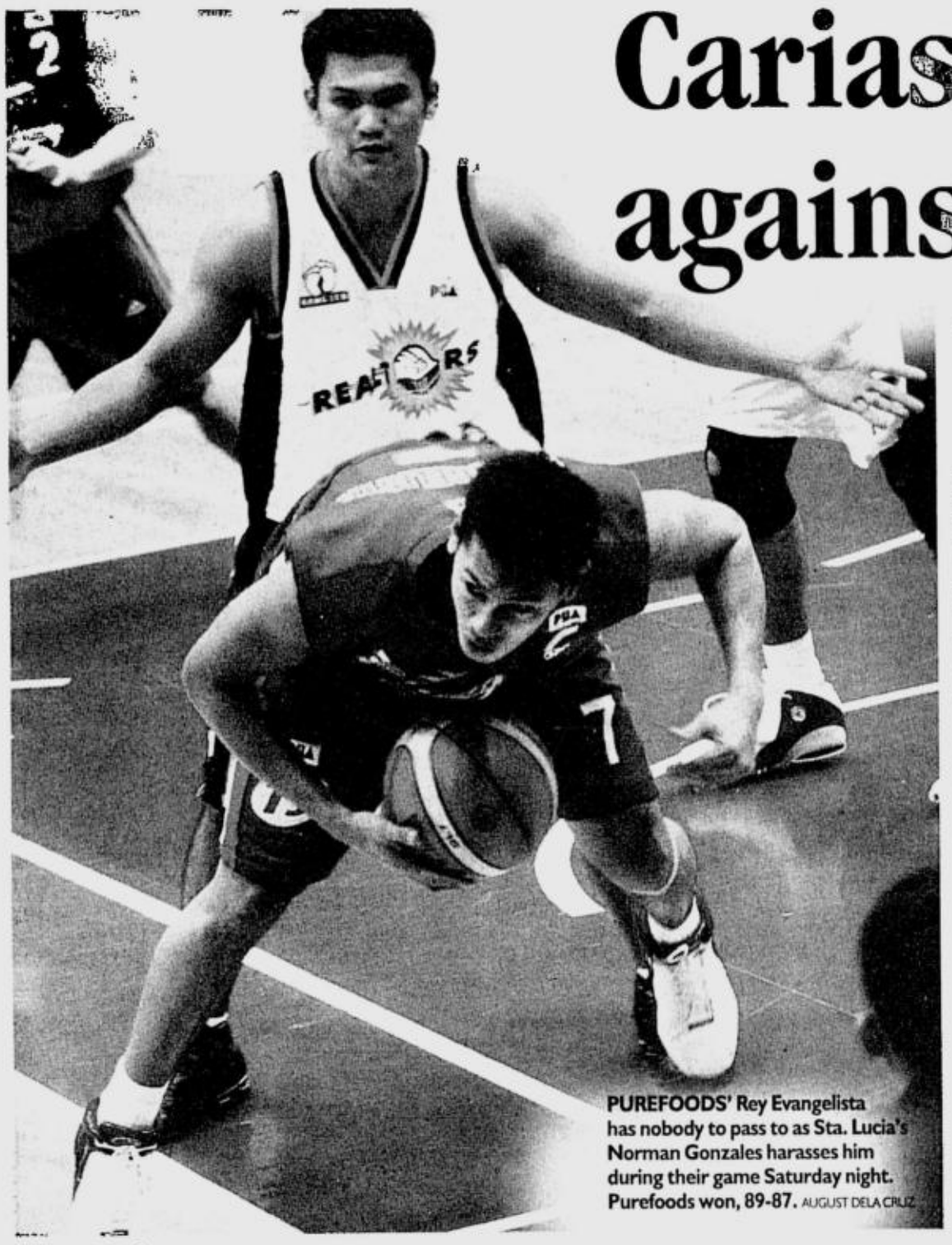

PUREFOODS' Rey Evangelista has nobody to pass to as Sta. Lucia's Norman Gonzales harasses him during their game Saturday night. Purefoods won, 89-87. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

By June Navarro

DON'T be stunned to see Jeffrey Cariaso and Reynel Hugnatan wearing an Alaska jersey when the Aces battle the San Miguel Beermen today in the Gran Matador PBA Philippine Cup at the Araneta Coliseum.

Cariaso and Hugnatan were traded along with the Coca-Cola Tigers' No. 1 draft pick for 2009 to Alaska yesterday in exchange for slotman Ali Peek and outside gunner John Arigo.

"We want some leadership back on our team and I think Cariaso will provide a lot of that. We also want a bruising player like Hugnatan because we want a hard-working enforcer that can provide a lot of hustle for our team," said Alaska team manager Joaqui Trillo.

GAMES TODAY
(Araneta Coliseum)
4 p.m.—San Miguel Beer vs Alaska
6:30 p.m.—Barangay Ginebra vs Shell

The Aces, who snapped out of a losing routine by beating Red Bull Barako, then playing minus its deportation-bound stars, will try to improve on its 1-3 record against the 2-3 Beermen in their 4 p.m. contest.

Shell hopes to sustain its upset run when it tackles Barangay Ginebra in the 6:30 p.m. main game.

The Aces' latest move slowly puts back into place the key pieces of their 1996 grand slam team.

"If we get Poch (Juinio) and Johnny (Abarrientos), our grand slam team is complete," said Trillo.

During the Fiesta Conference, Alaska signed up veteran power forward Bong Hawkins, who had teamed up with Cariaso, Juinio, Abarrientos and Jojo Lastimosa in Alaska's impressive title run eight seasons ago.

Cariaso is back where he originally began his career like Peek, who also played as a rookie in 1998 for Pop Cola, which later became Coca-Cola.

During his Pop Cola stint, Peek played alongside Vergel Meneses, Boybits Victoria and Nic Belasco before Peek and Jon Ordonio were acquired by the Aces in 2001 in exchange for Abarrientos and Juinio.

Don Allado is again a doubtful starter for Alaska.

"Right now, we just want to win as many games as we can, especially when the balance of power in the league has shifted to the other side," said Alaska coach Tim Cone, referring to the teams with foreign-born players who were suspended by the PBA.

Red Bull lost Davonn Harp and Mick Pennisi, Coca-Cola no longer has Rudy Hatfield and Talk 'N Text is making do without Asi Taulava as a result of a recent Department of Justice ruling that they faked their citizenship papers.

Barbers slams Asi for filing case

THE CHAIR of the Senate committee that initially declared Asi Taulava a fake Filipino last year blasted the Talk 'N Text center yesterday for filing "a lawsuit against Filipinos who were just trying to follow the rule of law as ordered by by the Department of Justice."

Former Sen. Robert Z. Barbers was reacting to a P1.2 million damage suit Taulva filed Thursday against PBA chair Buddy Encarnado, commissioner Noli Eala and the league's board of governors for suspending him following a recent ruling by the DOJ upholding the earlier findings by the Senate body.

He even has the temerity to file a lawsuit against Filipinos who were just trying to follow the rule of law as ordered by the Department of Justice.

"The issue has now transcended to a question on the patriotic allegiance of being a Filipino," said Barbers, adding that a supposed foreigner is now making a mockery of the law by doubting and questioning "the wisdom of our country's legal system."

Barbers said the PBA should be commended instead for showing "its determination to resolve and rectify possible lapses on certain procedures in their organization that opens the avenue for foreigners, with supposed Filipino roots, to be able to play in the country's premier professional league."

He added that the action taken by Taulava likewise questioned his credibility and that of the Senate.

Eala dares Taulava to face DOJ charges

By Jasmine Payo

THE PHILIPPINE Basketball Association yesterday challenged Asi Taulava to face the charges of the Department of Justice regarding his citizenship instead of dragging the league into a full-blown legal battle.

PBA Commissioner Noli Eala said that while Taulava has the right to file a court case, the Talk N Text slotman should have first refuted the DOJ findings, which found him guilty of faking his citizenship papers along with five other foreign-born players.

"He (Taulava) should stop hiding from legalities and directly answer the charges of the DOJ," said Eala a day after Taulava filed a P1.2-million damage suit against the league before the Quezon City Regional Trial Court.

Davonn Harp and Mick Pennisi had also filed a petition for prohibition with prayer for injunction and temporary restraining order at the Pasig Regional Trial Court.

Lawyers Ed Robles and Alexander Lacson said that the legal move will "hopefully prevent the DOJ in implementing its resolution to cancel their certificate of recognition of their citizenship" and "stop the Bureau of Immigration's deportation proceedings."

The hearing for Harp and Pennisi's petition is set tomorrow.

Taulava's lawyers had also sought a court injunction to force the PBA to allow him to suit up again for the Phone Pals.

"We are ready to face him in court. In fact, I'm trying to finish a proposal to the board centering on what the league would do with players who go to court," said Eala.

The PBA board has set an emergency board meeting on Wednesday to further study the implications of the DOJ deportation order on Red Bull's Davonn Harp, Mick Pennisi and John Ordonio, Rudy Hatfield of Coca-Cola and Ginebra's Alex Crisano.

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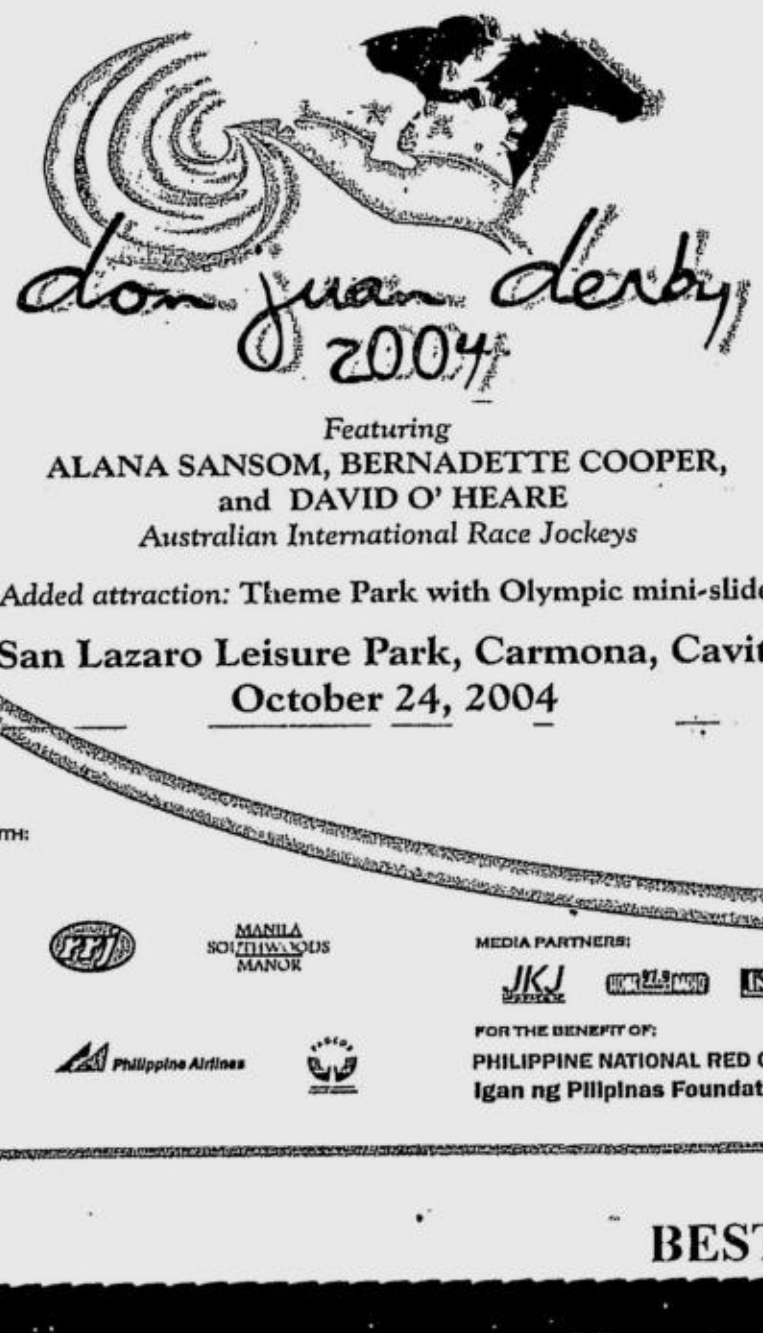

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Django zooms ahead

FRANCISCO "Django" Bustamante collected two victories to zoom to the top of the standings at the start of the World Pool League championship in Warsaw, Poland.

Canadian-based Filipino Alex Pagulayan split his first two matches to stay in the middle of the six-man pack featuring six of the world's best players.

Bustamante rolled over defending champion Rodney Morris, 6-4, capitalizing on his foe's errors for the victory.

The veteran cue master followed it up by taking seven of the first 10 racks off the break and hammering out a 6-4 decision over Englishman Steve Davis.

Pagulayan, on the other hand, trimmed European champion Thomas Engbert in his opening match, despite trailing, 1-3, early in the match. Pagulayan, the reigning world pool champion, pounced on a long miss by Enbert to complete several run-ups en route to the victory.

But Pagulayan failed to stretch his momentum, dropping a close 6-4 decision to Dutchman Niels Feijen, who stayed second behind Bustamante with one win and one draw.

Pagulayan ranked third, followed by Davis, Morris and Engbert.

P.67M RICHER

Sambajon captures World Summit title

UNHERALDED Bicolano Santos Sambajon bested Mike Davis, 7-5, recently to capture the World Summit of Pool title in New York City.

The 44-year-old Sambajon, who left the country six years ago under the sponsorship of Stronghold Insurance president Dave Mercado, has been campaigning in the US for four years and his best finish was second place.

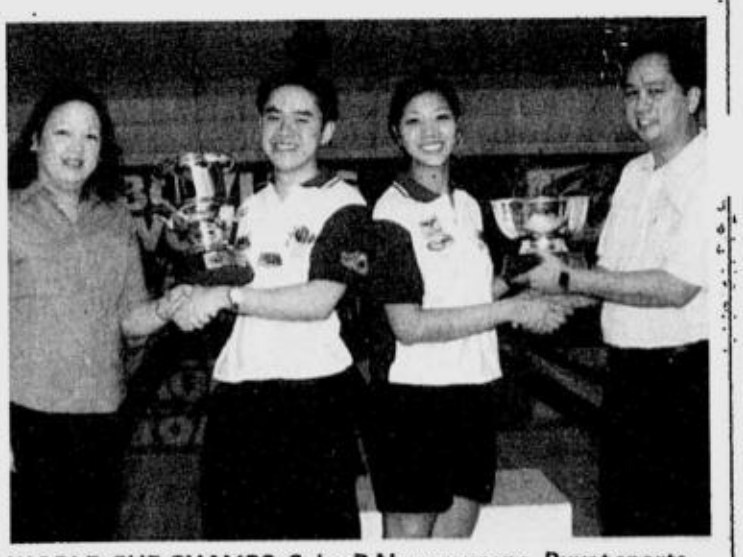
"This is good for me," said Sambajon, whose most recent bridesmaid appearance came at the Billiard Congress of America Open 9-Ball Championships in Las Vegas last May.

Sambajon went undefeated in the 68-player field of the United States Poolplayers Association (UPA) tournament that included Earl Strickland.

Earlier, Sambajon squeaked past Davis, 7-6, in the winner's bracket. The final four matches were shortened to races to seven to accommodate taping for future airing on ESPN.

After struggling in the early racks of the finale, Sambajon ran out from the break on his final three attempts in the alternate-break format. With the match tied, 55, Davis attempted to slide 1 ball into the side pocket but missed. Sambajon cleared the table, then ran out from the break to seal the match.

Sambajon earned $12,000 for the title. Davis earned $6,000 as runner-up. Strickland placed third in the event, followed by Danny Harriman.



WORLD CUP CHAMPS: Saira P. Nepomuceno, Puyat sports managing director, and engineer Gilbert V. Gavino, Puyat Sports general manager, present the trophies to Chester King and Liza del Rosario after the two bowlers topped the World Cup national finals Wednesday at Paeng's Eastwood Bowl. King and del Rosario will represent the Philippines in the international finals set Dec. 5-12 at the SAFRA Clubhouse in Telok Blangah, Singapore.

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RP team bows to Poland, 3-1

The leaders after seven rounds:

OPEN SECTION: 21.5--Ukraine, 19.5--Russia, Armenia, Bulgaria; 19.0--Spain A; 18.5 -- India, Poland; 18.0 -- United States, Azerbaijan, France; 17.5 -- Israel, Moldova, Netherlands, Georgia, China, Cuba, Serbia Montenegro; 17.0 -- Czech Republic, Slovakia, Estonia, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Slovenia; 16.5 -- Canada, England, Hungary, Germany, Argentina, Belarus, Denmark, Greece; 16.0 -- Philippines, Spain B, Brazil, Romania, Iceland, Scotland, Indonesia, Switzerland

WOMEN: 18.5 -- China; 14.5 -- Lithuania, Poland; 14.0 -- England, Hungary; 13.5 -- Bulgaria, Kazakhstan, Russia, US, Armenia, France, India, Ukraine, Sweden; 12.5 -- Azerbaijan, Georgia, Netherlands, Israel, Romania, Serbia Montenegro; 9.5 -- Philippines, Mexico, Brazil, Luxermbourg, Bosnia Herzegovina, Kyrgystan, Spain A, Wales

MALLORCA, Spain—The lower boards cracked under time pressure as the Philippines bowed to ninth-ranked Poland, 1-3, Friday in the seventh round of the World Chess Olympiad.

Rookie Darwin Laylo, playing white, bungled a winning game at board four while Emmanuel Senador took his third straight loss at board three.

Grandmaster Eugene Torre and Grandmaster-elect Mark Paragua drew their matches in the top boards as the Filipinos slipped to a tie for 33rd spot with 16 points.

The Filipinos get a chance to rebound when they face Indonesia Saturday.

Ukraine, steadily pulling away from the field, edged India, 2.5-1.5, with GM Sergei Karjakin providing the lone win at the expense of GM Abhijit Kunte at board four.

In the featured match at the top board, GM Vassily Ivanchuk, playing his seventh straight game, salvaged a draw with GM Viswanathan Anand.

Defending champion Russia, Armenia and Bulgaria are tied for second with 19.5 points.

Bulgaria derailed Russia's ascent when it pulled off a shock 2.5-1.5 win, thanks to IM Ivan Cheparinov's upset of GM Alexander Grischuk at board three.

The Filipinos began the seventh round with high hopes following their 3-1 defeat of Denmark Wednesday that vaulted them to a share of 13th spot.

Things were running smoothly with Laylo gaining the upperhand in his King's Indian encounter with GM Bartosz Socko (2570).

The 24-year-old national champion, following clever knight maneuvers, won a pawn and had Socko by the throat until he lapsed into errors under time trouble that allowed the Polish GM to break free and control the seventh rank.

Laylo, who gave up a piece for two pawns, was forced to resign after 42 moves.

Post-game analysis showed Laylo firmly ahead, but he missed several winning lines that could have lifted the Philippines to a draw with Poland.

Senador, on the other hand, had barely 31 seconds on the clock when he yielded to GM Robert Kempinski after 29 moves of a Queen's Pawn Opening.

He failed to manage his time well against his opponent who still had 22 minutes and 44 seconds in his clock at the end of the game.

The twin losses marred the Filipinos' tough stand in the first two boards.

Torre, playing his fifth consecutive match, drew with GM Bartlomiej Macieja after 37 moves of a Pirc defense to improve his score to 2.5 points in five games.

Playing black, the 52-year-old veteran seized the initiative in the middlegame, but it was not enough to secure the victory.

Paragua, on the other hand, agreed to a draw with GM Michael Krasenkow, the highest-rated player he faced so far at 2676.

Despite a better posted knight against Krasenkow's bad bishop, Paragua signed the truce after 40 moves and improved his output to 3.5 points after six games.

Against Indonesia, the Filipinos will be facing a team missing GM Utut Adianto.

GM Joey Antonio opted to rest for the second straight day, but Gonzales would return to action, replacing Senador at board three.

In women's play, the Philippines was shut out by 11th-ranked Serbia Montenegro, 0-3.

Two-time national champion Sheerie Joy Lomibao suffered her first defeat at the hands of IM Alisa Maric (2418). Women IM Beverly Mendoza bowed to Women GM Svetlana Prudnikova while rookie Loreshyl Cuizon lost to WIM Ana Benderac.

The loss dropped the Filipinas into a tie for 55th place with 9.5 points, nine behind runaway leader China.

China routed France, 2.5-0.5, to take a commanding four-point lead over Lithuania and Poland.

JOSEPH AUDAZIL

BADMINTON Central Team's Kiko Sabio and Jojo Hipolito won over MPC's Luigi Reyes and Inday Mallari.

MPC shuttlers stay unbeaten

By Musong R. Castillo

THE MANILA Polo Club subdued Sheridan, 2-1, to stay undefeated in Group A after first day of action of the Central eliminations of the Battle of the Courts: Platinum Inter-Club badminton tournament at The Zone courts in Makati.

The MPC shuttlers swept their first three assignments and put a foot in the crossover semifinals of the tournament backed by Globe Platinum and INQUIRER Badminton.

The mixed pair of Inday Mallari and Anthony Ching provided the clinching point in their match against Sheridan, prevailing, 11-5, 15-6, 7-1, over the hard-fighting team of Bam Dilla and Ma. Theresa David.

Sheridan finished the first day with a 2-1 slate like host The Zone, but things could turn for the worst for the team with a protest still looming on ace Dilla.

Protests were logged on two of Sheridan's players, one on Dilla and the other on Arnold Depakakibo. Depakakibo was cleared by the tournament committee, which was told before the start of hostilities that his status is a varsity player of the Philippine Military Academy for belonging to its Corps Squad.

The protest on Dilla is that he is a professional trainer, and if someone in the field can prove this, all of the victories of Sheridan which Dilla played in will be forfeited.

Mallari and Ching sparkled in the second set, breaking free from a 6-all game to win the next nine points and forge a decider, which they handily won.

Depakakibo and Alen Martolay first knotted the match at 1-1 after winning the men's doubles over Raymund Rodrigo and Vincent Lim, 15-10, 15-11. Rina Samson and Mariel Tiangco gave MPC a 1-0 edge with a 15-12, 15-7 victory over the Alma Bringas-Theresa Dayan tandem.

MPC/A28

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WORLD CHAMPION: Reigning triple MotoGP world champion Valentino Rossi powers his Yamaha to a championship-clinching victory over rival Sete Gibernau in the Australian Moto GP in Phillip Island, Australia. The 25-year-old Italian led Yamaha to its first world title at the top level since American Wayne Rainey in 1992.

TAGBILARAN BOUT

Bautista battles Indon

By Salven L. Lagumbay
Contributor

TAGBILARAN CITY—World Boxing Organization Asia Pacific bantamweight champion Rey "Boom Boom" Bautista will try not to disappoint his hometown fans when he faces Indon Christian Kasino tonight in the main event of the "Pride of Bohol" card at the Bohol Wisdom School gymnasium.

Bautista tipped the scales yesterday at 53.7 kilograms, while Kasino came in at the limit of 54 kilograms during official weigh-in supervised by Games and Amusements Board's Adam Arong.

For the 18-year-old Candijay-born Bautista (11-0, 8 KOs), this will be his first outing since winning the WBO title over Thai Saensak Singmanasak last August, and his fifth straight bout against a foreign opponent.

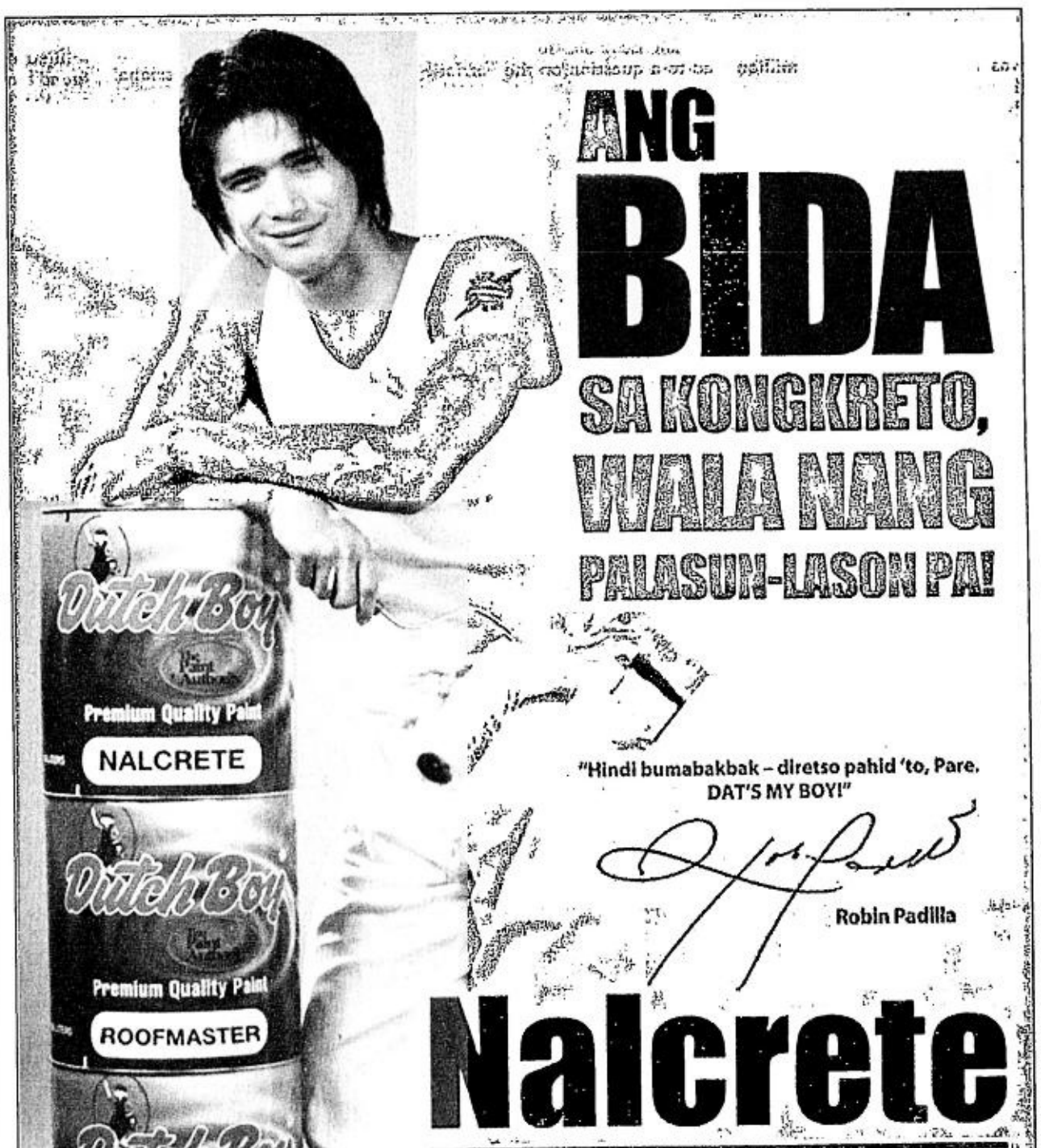
The 20-year-old Kasino, a veteran of 26 fights, had earlier boasted he would shame Bautista before his local fans.

Tagbilaran City Mayor Dan Neri Lim said Bohol's biggest international boxing event to date will feature the island's other topnotch fighters.

"This will be an explosive, non-stop, action-packed card that will make all Boholanos proud of their homegrown talents," said promoter Sammy "Don King" Gello-ani.

In the co-feature, ALA boy Caesar Amonsot takes on ex-Indonesian featherweight king Leed Sabu in another 10-round affair.

BARKADASH CHAMPIONS Ateneo de Manila University's Supafly team topped the recent Polo Cool Campus Challenge held at the UP Diliman grounds. Shown are Supafly with (from left) Cathy Sanchez, Polo brand manager; and Che Segovia, Nestle Philippines Confectionery Group promo manager.



St. Louis wants party-pooper role

BOSTON—Baseball fans should forgive the St. Louis Cardinals for acting as the party poopers for the Boston Red Sox, who will try to snap an 86-year title drought by winning the 101st World Series.

After all, the Cardinals have not won Major League Baseball's best-of-seven showdown since 1982. And St. Louis supporters have not cheered a National League champion in the World Series since a 1987 loss to Minnesota.

"Talk about pooping a party. We haven't been here in 17 years," Cardinals manager Tony La Russa said here Friday.

"It's a time for both fans and both teams to be selfish. They want to win for all their reasons. We have a clubhouse full of guys who haven't won a World Series ring. We're going to try to be greedy and selfish just like those guys."

The World Series starts here Saturday on the game's grandest stage, Fenway Park, for the first time since 1986. The 92-year-old baseball cathedral has the Green Monster, a high left-field wall with a hand-operated scoreboard.

"It's a neat environment," La Russa said. "The fans are close to the field. You feel their presence. Lot of passion. Lot of knowledge about the game. But most of the thing with Fenway is the club you're playing against."

The Cardinals won 105 games, best in the major leagues, while the Red Sox were a wild-card qualifier and could follow Anaheim and Florida as a third consecutive wild-card winner of the World Series.

The Red Sox became the first team in baseball history to recover from an 0-3 deficit to win a best-of-seven series in rallying to eliminate the archrival New York Yankees in the American League championship series.

"It's a tough situation," said knuckleballer Tim Wakefield, who will pitch the opener for Boston against Woody Williams. "Everybody says the Yankees-Red Sox series is always the World Series."

"It was a tough battle all seven games. I still scratch my head and try to figure out how the heck we did what we did, but we did it. I think having a day off helped get us back to focus on our main goal, and that's trying to win the World Series. I don't think it will be too big of a letdown for us."

"I appreciate where we are, but the task at hand is what's on our mind," Red Sox manager Terry Francona said. "I'm sure I will look back and have some wonderful memories. Not yet. Not even close to yet."

"We just want to win tomorrow." *AFP*

Sox eye end of

BOSTON—After 86 years of futility and frustration, the Boston Red Sox could complete an American sports fable for the ages by breaking the "Curse of the Bambino" and winning their first World Series since 1918.

The Red Sox and St. Louis Cardinals begin the best-of-seven Major League championship showdown here Saturday at historic Fenway Park, where the long-suffering legions of "Red Sox Nation" gather every season with new hope.

"I know they have had some difficult times. I could feel the pain the moment I arrived in Boston," said Boston slugger David Ortiz, the Most Valuable Player of the American League finals.

"It's time for us to win a World Series."

Nothing in American sporting mythology approaches the legend of the Red Sox Curse, which centers on Red Sox then-owner Harry Frazee's 1919 sale of baseball icon Babe Ruth to the archrival New York Yankees.

Bambino

Ruth began as a southpaw pitcher for Boston, going 89-46 in six seasons, but became a skilled slugger as well, the "Bambino" smashing an unprecedented 29 home runs and hitting .322 in 1919.

But Frazee wanted money to finance his Broadway musicals and sold Ruth to the Yankees for a then-record $100,000 and a $300,000 loan.

Since the trade, the Yankees have won a record 26 World Series titles and become the greatest dynasty in American sport. The Red Sox have won none and often squandered title chances in heartbreaking fashion.

The Red Sox, who won five of the first 15 World Series incl
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Baird: More to golf than just winning

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Florida—Briny Baird has played 153 times on the PGA Tour without winning, and he gets another chance this weekend in the Funai Classic at Disney.

It might take holding a trophy for him to realize how much it means.

After a 6-under 66 on Friday, a round in which he needed only 23 putts, the 32-year-old son of Butch Baird said a trophy alone wouldn't satisfy him.

"I don't think I put the emphasis on winning," Baird said.

Maybe that's just his way of trying to take away the weekend pressure.

Baird had a chance to qualify for his first Tour Championship last year in Tampa, but referred it to the $6-million All-Star game as "just another tournament." He got into the elite field by finishing third, and was thrilled.

Pressure could come from all corners across the street from the Magic Kingdom.

Baird was at 13-under 131 and had a one-shot lead over Tom Lehman, who shot his second straight 66 and got into weekend contention for the third consecutive week. *AP*

MPC shuttlers stay unbeaten

From page A27

The tournament is also backed by Mizuno, L Timestudio, Philippine Airlines Mabuhay Miles, Gosen as the official shuttlecock, Nestle as the official drink provider, Gerflor Taraflex as the official mat and Westin Philippine Plaza as the official hotel.

Fit to Play and Metro Badminton tied for first in Group B with 2-0 slates, with Shuttle Zone and Xtreme Badminton at 1-1.

Group B action resumes with each of the six teams playing three games today starting 9 a.m. at the Yonex courts in Mandaluyong.

The tournament is the biggest of its kind in the country and it goes to its final elimination leg next weekend in Quezon City with the North eliminations.

Valle Verde and Marikina topped the East swing and Alabang Country Club and Anvil are the Southern qualifiers.

The top two placers in each of the four legs will earn slots to the National Championships slated Nov. 21 and 22 at the Market! Market! courts where a free trip to Bangkok is at stake.

NEW CHAPTER: Miami Heat center Shaquille O'Neal goes for an awkward shot as he prepares to begin a new chapter of a career long associated with the Los Angeles Lakers. AP

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86-year curse

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eak came in 1986,
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nal out to beat the Mets in game six and take the title. Champagne and Series title souvenirs would be delivered and removed from the Boston locker room.

Leading, 5-3, with two outs in the bottom of the 10th, the Red Sox surrendered three singles and a wild pitch to allow the Mets to level the game. Then came the moment that lives in Red Sox infamy.

New York's Mookie Wilson hit a bouncing ground ball that went under the glove and between the legs of Boston's Bill Buckner, allowing Ray Knight to score the winning run. The Mets won a seventh game.

Last year, the Yankees beat the Red Sox in a seven-game series on Aaron Boone's 11th-inning homer.

Could Ruth have cursed the Red Sox? Does his ghost haunt the club? Or is superstition simply an easier way for devoted loyalists to live with repeated chokes? What better way to explain a legacy of loss and destiny of defeat?

Exorcisms

Exorcisms and witches casting spells at Fenway failed to bring a title. So did a bid to find a piano Ruth sent to the bottom of a lake.

The Red Sox inflicted some of their own misery, becoming the last major league team to allow black players, not integrating until 1959.

Pitcher Pedro Martinez once sneered at the curse, saying, "I don't believe in curses. Wake up the damn Bambino. Maybe I'll drill him in the ass."

Martinez went down with an injury and did not win another game all season. Now his tune has changed: "The Bambino was a good person. Why would he put a curse on us? He was too nice a guy for that." *AFP*

SHARAPOVA: Eleven straight REUTERS

Sharapova ousts Venus

ZURICH—Wimbledon champion Maria Sharapova beat former world No. 1 Venus Williams, 6-3, 6-4, on Friday to reach the semifinals of the Zurich Challenge.

Frequently putting Williams on the back foot in a battle of past and present Wimbledon winners, the 17-year-old Russian further underlined her country's domination of the women's game.

The world No. 7 was in almost constant control, combining fierce ground strokes and ferocious returns of serve to win in just 75 minutes.

It was the Russian's 11th victory in a row, following on from tournament triumphs in Seoul and Tokyo.

Local favorite and 10th seed Patty Schnyder will contest Saturday's second semifinal against Australia's Alica Molik.

Schnyder, who won the Zurich title in 2002, came back from a set down on Friday to defeat Argentina's Paola Suarez, 2-6, 6-3, 6-4.

Sharapova, seeded fourth in Zurich, will now take on third seed Elena Dementieva in an all-Russian semifinal. *Reuters*

Agassi sets semis date with Safin

MADRID, Spain—Andre Agassi responded to a warm greeting by Spanish fans by eliminating the last local hopeful, Tommy Robredo, 6-7 (3), 6-3, 6-2, Friday night and advancing to the semifinals of the Madrid Masters.

After losing the first-set tiebreak on a double-fault before a packed Rockodromo Arena crowd that included Real Madrid and English national team midfielder David Beckham, the 34-year-old American fought off six break points early in the second set before taking command.

Tied 1-1, Agassi finally held with a near-ace and then broke for a 3-1 lead after Robredo double-faulted on the American's second break point. Agassi, who won the inaugural Madrid Masters in 2002 but didn't play last year, dominated the rest of the way.

Agassi, seeded second in the Spanish capital, will play No. 3 Marat Safin of Russia in Saturday's semifinal. Safin beat Peru's Luis Horna, 6-4, 6-4. *AP*

MARP CUP

Cyan flattens field for title

MARIA-CYAN saved the best for last, unleashing a torrid barrage in the stretch to overpower a gasping field and rule the 1st MARP Cup INQUIRER badminton tournament at the Court Zone.

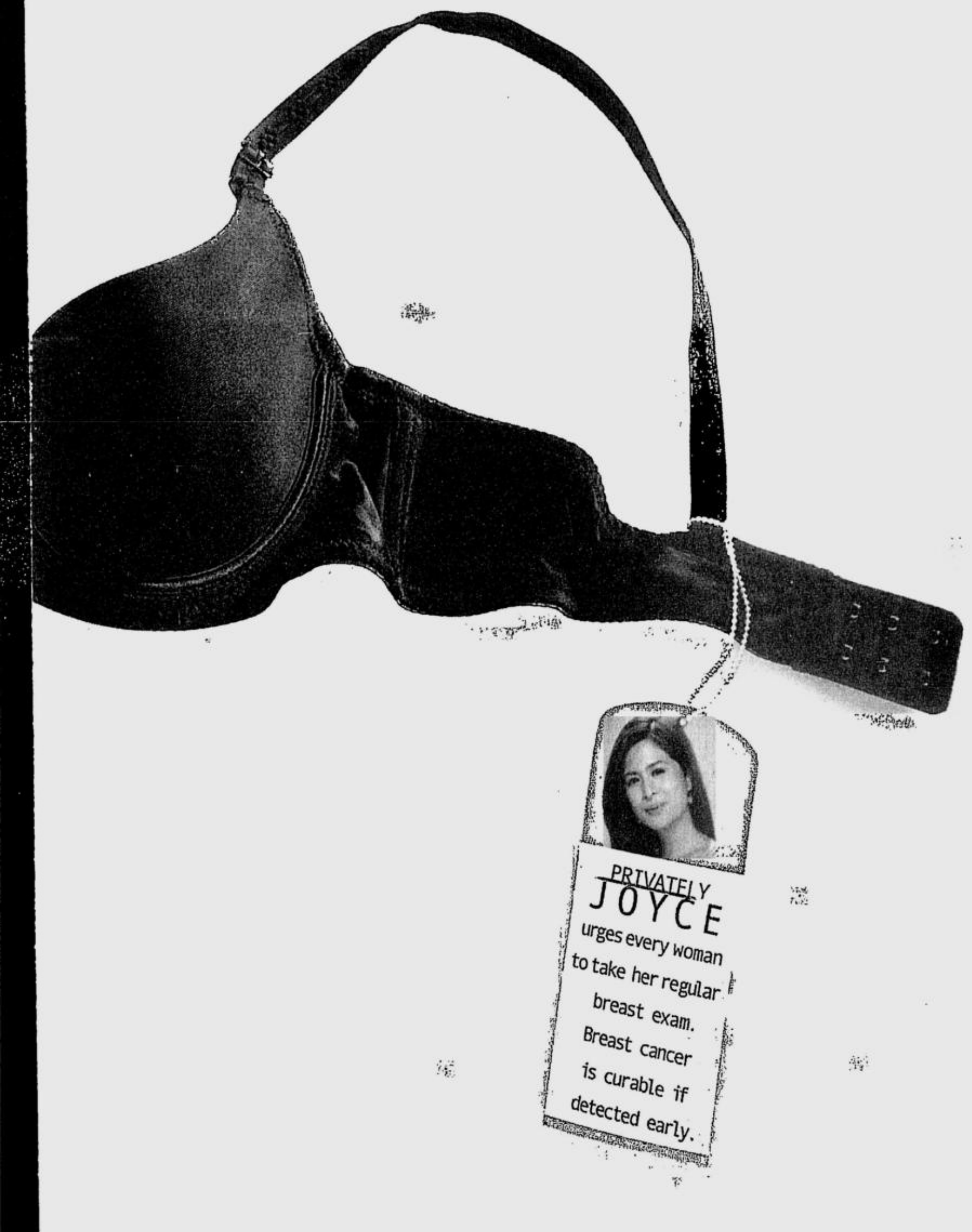
Corporate Cuppers Raul Marcelo and Doris Dumlao capped a scorching stretch of five straight sweeps as Maria-Cyan swamped Prieto-Black, 16-6, to claim the championship running away, amassing a three-weekend total of 40 points.

Noli Navarro and Mike Salonga, Adela Mendoza and Sonny Cruz, Angie Aguila and Arnold Gatdula, and Volt Contreras and Delson Tangcora all picked up two points to fuel Maria-Cyan's strong finish in the event held in honor of INQUIRER chair Marixi R. Prieto.

Auxilio-Magenta finished with 35 for second place while Rufino-Yellow was with 31. Prieto-Black placed fourth with 24.

Auxilio actually held the lead briefly, after sweeps by John Nery and Rolly Suarez and Luis Ymson and Margie dela Vega in their match against Rufino.

But Maria turned up the heat and won 14 of the last 16 points to pull away. Rufino, on the other hand, slowed Auxilio's run with a sweep by Donald Lim and Rene Reinoso and forced crucial draws the rest of the way.



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KDJM Derby on today at San Lazaro tracks

By Edwin Villanueva, *Contributor*

EMPIRE King and Cover Girl are all set for their much-awaited rematch and the visiting Australian jockeys are just as raring to show what their riding stuff are made of at the end of their three-day stint here.

With the San Lazaro Leisure Park serving as battleground, the Klub Don Juan de Manila brings the curtain down on its highly successful racing festival with the staging of the P2-million KDJM Derby and four other equally interesting championships today.

Chief rivals in the recent Triple Crown, Empire King and Cover Girl are heading the Derby cast of nine gallopers vying for the juicy winner's pot of P1.16 million.

In the recent TC series, Empire King nosed out Cover Girl in the Ongpin Cup and then won the Horseman's Cup where the latter wound up fourth.

The KDJM has also lined up the Golden Girl Stakes, Juvenile, 2nd Don Antonio Floirendo Sr. Cup and Gregorio Reyes Memorial Cup, the last

COOPER

SANSOM

two serving as the jockeys' competition featuring classy riders from Down Under Bernadette Cooper, Alana Sansom and David O'Heare matching skills against their top local counterparts.

"We're really excited to meet them again. They're good and really competitive," said Sansom, the pretty, 24-year-old rider from Perth, referring to the likes of Pat Dilema, Jeffril Zarate and Jonathan Hernandez.

Sansom, who made history in Australia when she became the first female jockey to win the Apprentice Riding Premiership in 2000-2001, is guiding Hermie Esguerra's High Octane in the Reyes Cup and Aba Aba Aba in the Floirendo Cup.

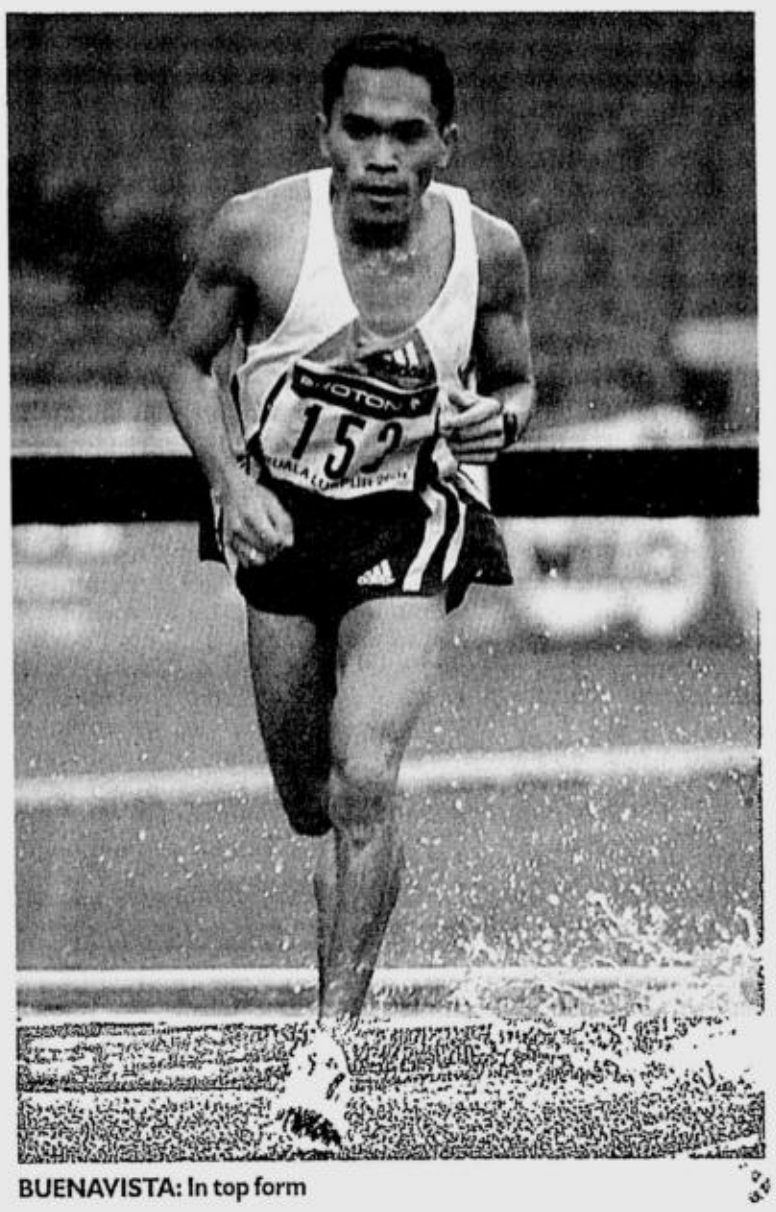
"We're honored to have those Australian jockeys here. Their presence is a big boost not only to the KDJM racefest but to the whole racing industry as well," said chairman Jimmy Dilag of the Philracom, which, along with the Manila Jockey Club, Motolite, Fort Ilocandia, Norkis-Yamaha and Magic Millions Ltd., is sponsoring the spectacle.

Dilag, who declared that the SLLP is now free of the equine infectious anemia (EIA) virus, added that the Philracom is now working out plans with Magic Millions to undertake an RP-Australia exchange program between jockeys and trainers.

Aside from KDJM president Sonny Arevalo and vice president for racing Jun Almeda, other KDJM big guns expected to be in attendance for the event today are Don Antonio Floirendo Sr., Pampanga Rep. Mikey Macapagal-Arroyo, Marlon Cunanan and William Dagan.

"Your jockeys are excellent. They ride so great and I might say they're world-class. We sure want to be back here again," said Cooper, 30, regarded as Australia's version of American great Julie Krone.

Cooper partners Propensity in the Reyes Cup and Oliver Sun Joy in the Floirendo Cup, while O'Heare mounts Flying Jordan and Elite, respectively.



BUENAVISTA: In top form

RACING

AT SLLP BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Cool Runnings 2. Chariot of Fire/Coromell 3. Paramount 4. Queen of Diamonds
Race 2—1. Money for Rap 2. Montezuma 3. D as In Dixie 4. Nitty Gritty 5. Hezagone Babes
Race 3—1. Favorite Trick 2. Tenacity 3. Lord of the Ring
Race 4—1. Golden Fantasy 2 Pyramid Relaunch 3. In Command 4. Manila Magic 5. Super Hero
Race 5—1. Parrot Moe/Reporter 2. Miguel's Pet 3. Magic Dancer 4. Big Bucks
Race 6—1. Elite 2. Better Strike 3. Kumpimundo 4. Burst of Speed
Race 7—1. Calvin's Magic 2. Bella Firenze 3. Lady in Red 4. Rosekaape
Race 8—1. Empire King 2. Cover Girl 3. Sextest 4. I Love This Game/Don Paolo
Race 9—1. Real Gem 2. Macho Guwapito 3. Magic Dave 4 Vojamac
Race 10—1. Dandansoy 2. Crystal Show/Neat Laurel 3. Looks A Winner 4. Treeline
Race 11—1.Lucky Strike 2. Loaded 3. Angel Eyes 4. Iron Will
Race 12—1. High Octane 2. Hellfire 3. Propensity 4. Alex's Magic
Race 13—1. Day Break 2. Western Legend 3. Luck of the Irish 4. Daldalera 5. Go Ichi
Race 14—1. Sakura Ijhay 2. Blitzkrieg 3. Jhe-anne D Great 4. Native Talent 5. Batang Cabu 6. Princess Dancer

Peping pushes for new sports center in Clark

By Marc Anthony Reyes

PUTTING up a national training center in the former US air base in Angeles, Pampanga, will be a priority for incoming Philippine Olympic Committee president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco Jr.

The younger brother of former President Cory Aquino, who is the incumbent equestrian president, said Clark Field has all the space and necessary conditions to become the new seat of the country's sports development program.

The hub of national sports activity remains the dilapidated, 70-year-old Rizal Memorial Sports Complex in Manila, which at eight hectares is too small and is no longer conducive to a no-nonsense training regimen with a lot of distractions surrounding the area.

Cojuangco, a former Tarlac congressman who also served as president of bowling and golf, had said he would look into the possibility of selling the Rizal sports complex and use the proceeds to build a new one in Clark.

With incumbent POC president Celso Dayrit announcing Wednesday that he's no longer running, Cojuangco only has to file his certificate of candidacy a month before the Nov. 27 polls to officially clinch the top post in the local Olympic body.

"The congressman must be reminded to file or risk suffering from technicality," said a source in the POC. "If that happens, (incumbent president Celso) Dayrit is likely to stay on in the absence of any candidate."

POC first vice president Steve Hontiveros said the POC would be choosing the members of the commission on elections next week.

With Dayrit's withdrawal, the nominations and elections would only be held for positions with contending parties, Hontiveros added.

Buenavista breaks Vence's 21-K mark

ATHENS Olympian Eduardo Buenavista won the recent 1st Pacita Half Marathon in a record time of one hour, seven minutes and 22 seconds (1:07.22), breaking Roy Vence's national mark of 1:11.24 which he set at the Malacca International Marathon in 1995.

The diminutive Buenavista, who also holds the best time in the Milo marathon, won the top prize of P10,000 and trophy. He also received a P5,000 special prize from Sonny A. Ordona, president of the organizing Tropang Pacita.

Vence finished fifth. He said he lost two weeks of tune-up runs after his mother died two weeks ago.

Buenavista led all the way from the starting gun at Pacita Complex, San Pedro, Laguna, and beat fellow Philippine Air Force runner Julius Sermona, who clocked 1:09.10, and Philippine Army's Reynaldo de los Reyes, who finished third at 1:09.30. Philippine Navy Crisanto Canillo came fourth, just half a step ahead of Vence. Both had an identical clocking of 1:09.52.

In the female category, Liza Delfin set the best time by a female runner in a Philippine half marathon by finishing the race at one hour, 28 minutes and 18 seconds (1:28.18). Veteran runner Gloria Diaz came in second at 1:28.37 and Mila Paje placed third at 1:35.08. Rounding up the top five were Ellen Tolentino (1:35.51) and Enate Sayrol (1:42.27).

The event was supported by San Pedro Mayor Felicisimo Vierneza.

Havoline's Coseteng tries to raise Touring Car lead

HAVOLINE Racing Team's star driver Jody Coseteng will attempt to pull away from the pursuing pack when he shoots for another double victory in the 11th and 12th rounds of the Philippine National Touring Car Championships at the Batangas Racing Circuit in Rosario, Batangas, on Sunday.

Despite a collision-marred 10th round, Coseteng was able to keep his hold on the lead in the premier N1 division with 91 points.

The four-time Driver of the Year led majority of the race before being overtaken by Formula 1 aspirant Enzo Pastor.

COSETENG

"I'll just try to bounce back next time," said Coseteng, who is backed by Caltex Havoline and San Mig Strong Ice.

Coseteng is also trying to stay as sharp as possible before plunging into action in the 2004 Macau Grand Prix this November.

For the first time, Coseteng is dipping his hat into the international racing scene as a member of the Engstler Team, a German-based squad headed by well-known driver Franz Engstler.

Coseteng, who will be using a BMW racing machine in Macau, will be accompanied to the Grand Prix by Team captain Oscar Aguilar, who is currently holding the 2nd runner-up spot in the Class B division of the PNTCC.

"Jody and the Havoline Racing team which he represents are honored to be taking part in the prestigious Macau Grand Prix. We are confident of a good placing for Jody not only in Batangas, but in Macau, because he will be using Havoline engine oil. Many racers taking part in the Batangas races for instance are one in saying that it is the best oil not only for circuit-racing but in ordinary, day-to-day driving as well," said Paul Familara, Caltex Havoline Team Manager.

The Havoline team is powered by Vortex Gold and supported by Rota Wheels, Brembo Brakes, Hyper Parts, Gatorz Eyewear, Gaspeed Kolor Craft, Auto Trend, DZ Racing and Performance, and Atoy Body Kits.

Coseteng leads second-placer Rey Reyes (88 points) by three points, while erstwhile second-running Dominic Bon slipped to third with 87 points.

LYNX CUP: The final leg of the Ford Lynx Cup Novice Series 2004 started yesterday at the Batangas racing Circuit. Allen Ong leads the series ending today. Trailing Ong are Gibson Yu and Randy Paray.

Brazil F1 race viewing slated

THE FINAL Formula One race of the season, the Brazilian GP, will be commemorated in the Mild Seven F1 Club with kart races and fantastic prizes tomorrow at Speedzone, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig.

Sponsored by Mild Seven, Comfort Zone at Speedzone, Van Hussen Apparel, Ultra Lone Star Beer, Clot Ice, Mike's Hard Lemonade, Top Gear Magazine, Speed TV, BLTBCo. and MP Turbo, the early morning live viewing will be hyped up by two kart races with registration starting at 6 p.m.

The first race will be the Mild Seven F1 Club Grudge Match for Car Clubs, which will be a one-hour race between car clubs. Six members from each club will be competing head to head and settle who is the best club in Manila. Teams from TACP, Honda Club, My Mitsu, Mitsubishi Club, Mazda Protege, Emperor and BMW Car Club have signified their intentions to compete.

The Mild Seven F1 Club was sponsored also by Jack Daniel's, Smart Addict, Fila, JVC, BLTBCo. and Samsung. The second kart race is called the Speedzone-MP Turbo 2-HR Enduro Kart race where rated and novice drivers will team up.

Unigames underway with 2,500 athletes

BACOLOD CITY—The 9th Annual University Games opens today at the University of St. La Salle here with about 2,500 athletes from 45 tertiary education schools participating.

Philippines Sports commissioner William Ramirez will be the guest speaker in the 8:30 a.m. opening program after the inspirational message of Rep. Monico Puentevella of Bacolod City, and the welcome remarks of Mayor Evelio Leonardia and USLS president Bro. Boquer, FSC.

At stake in the Oct. 24-29 games are 21 team titles in 11 sports disciplines—men and women's athletics, badminton, basketball, chess, football, lawn tennis, swimming, taekwondo, table tennis and volleyball as well as men's sepak takraw.

The University of the Philippines and Far Eastern University are fielding the biggest delegations other than the host school with 144 and 136 athletes and coaches, respectively.

Host USLS has almost 200 athletes seeing action in all events.

This will be the sixth Unigames to be hosted by St. La Salle, said Roger Banzuela, USLS varsity sports director and games secretary general.

Metro Manila is represented by 17 universities and colleges while the Visayas has 19 universities and colleges, including six from the host city, while seven Mindanao universities are seeing action in the competition founded by Bro. Rolando Dizon, newly retired chairman of the Commission on Higher Education and also past USLS president.

Malot Lozada, secretariat committee head, said the farthest teams come from the University of the Cordillera and St. Louis University in Baguio and the Mindanao State University in Tawi-tawi.

UAAP CHAMPS: De La Salle University feted the Green Archers recently for copping the UAAP basketball championship. Seated (2nd row from left) are coach Franz Pumaren, PDI chair Marixi Rufino-Prieto, DLSU president Bro. Armin Luistro, Chairman of Board of Trustees Ramon del Rosario Jr., DLSU EVP Dr. Lita Quebengco, team manager Terry Capistrano, DLSU-PSI Trustee Perry Uy and team assistant manager Manny Salgado.

Bernis rules Samsung Tour at John Hay

BERNIS: Four birdies in a five-hole span

BAGUIO—Reigning national amateur titlist Jun Bernis erased a four-stroke deficit with four birdies in a five-hole span then outsteadied Dave Hernandez down the final stretch to top the sixth leg of the Samsung Amateur Tour Friday at the Camp John Hay course in Baguio City.

Down by as many as five strokes after only four holes, Bernis kicked off his amazing comeback with a birdie on the seventh hole. Two holes later, Bernis exploded with a three-birdie barrage that went with two costly double-bogeys by Hernandez and surged ahead for good on the 11th.

Hernandez, who found himself trailing by three in the aftermath of that charge by Bernis, actually eagled the 12th to move to within two but it was the best he could offer as he bogeyed the next hole and gave it all up with another bogey on the 17th.

Bernis closed out with a 68 for a 282 aggregate, finishing two shots ahead of Hernandez, who had a 72 for 284, in the 72-hole tourney also sponsored by Tokyo Tokyo, C-Lium Fiber, Gatorade, Philippine Airlines, adidas Taylor Made, KZG by Custom Clubmakers, Pink Patio Boracay, Coppertone Sport, and Rogin-E. Killer-Bee, Jam 88.3, Wave 89.1, Magic 89.9, 99.5 RT and 103.5 K-Lite are media partners.

Camp John Hay Dev't Co. and Fil-Estate also gave their full support to the tourney which is one of Samsung's major involvements in local sports.

Thrilling action also marked the Class A division with local bet Nelson Eslao edging Mario Parinas for the title. Both players wound up at 147 after regulation play with Parinas drawing level by scoring a 71 against the 73 of Eslao.

The steady play of Sagat Giron (76-151) won him the Class B plum by four strokes over Alfonso Marcelo (74-155), Luciano Rovera (73-155) and Rudolfo Lockey (78-155).

Winning their divisions in the ladies category were Matet Salivio in Class A, Gilda Medestomas in Class B and Sharyn Hudson in Class C. Salivio (69-139) finished far ahead of Samantha Cebrero (80-165), Medestomas (73-160) wound up six in front of Cha Diciano and Hudson (92-168) pulled away from Lilibeth Ratcliffe (95-185).

Raul Molintas and Peter Go had earlier topped men's Class C and Class D, respectively.

"You win some, you lose some," said PSMG's Boy Blue Ocampo of Bernis' fortune as the latter scored the win after a tumultuous week when he was left behind by the national team now in Puerto Rico for the World Amateurs.

The nationwide eliminations wind up at the Cebu Country Club course on Dec. 14-17. For inquiries, call the PSMG office at 635-00-10.

WORLD AMATEUR

Agojo's 71 boosts RP golfers to 26th place

By Musong Castillo

JAYVEE Agojo shot a one-under-par 71 at the Ocean course yesterday, anchoring the Philippines to a level 144 in the third round of the 2004 Women's World Amateur Team championships still being led by Canada.

The Canadians held off Sweden in the chase for the Espirito Santo trophy at the River course of the Rio Marn golf complex with Mary Ann Lapointe and Laura Matthews submitting a 71 and a 72, respectively, for 143.

Canada led the Swedes by two with its seven-under 425 total even as the Philippines climbed to 26th overall at 27-over-par from 30th place overnight.

Lora Roberto signed for a 73 as the Philippines assembled their best round of the biennial meet.

Anya Tanpinco's 76 did not count, but the Filipinas' efforts were far better than the first two rounds when they turned in scores in the 80s.

The 18-year-old Agojo, who came to Puerto Rico with a swing re-tooled just a month ago, had four birdies and three bogeys, the last coming on the par-4 18th.

Roberto, who is also Jennifer Rosales' personal wardrobe consultant, had three bogeys and two birdies on a day when play was suspended for close to three hours because of lightning.

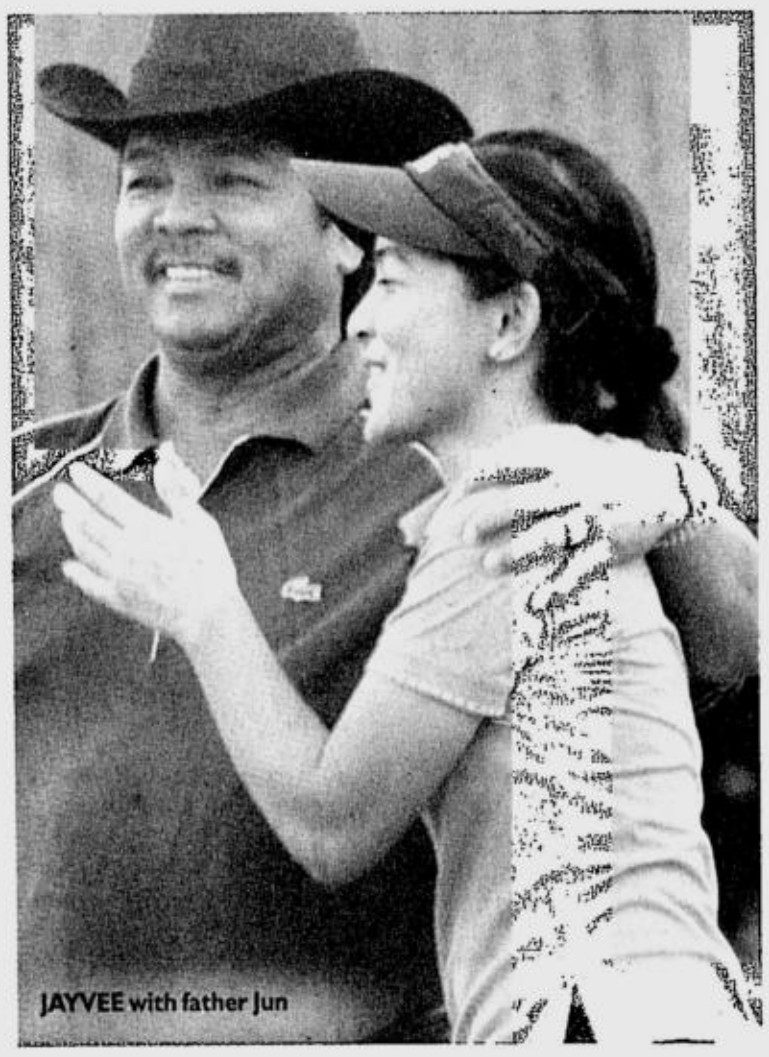
The United States, which also played the River course, was in third spot after another miserable day on the greens. The Americans had a 144 and stood five shots behind Canada with Columbia running fourth at 432 after a 143 output for the day.

Japan and Germany produced the best rounds of the day, their 139s putting them in fifth and seventh positions, respectively.

The Japanese also went ahead by a stroke over Korea in a heated battle for top Asian honors. Korea was in sixth just one behind heading into the final 18 holes today.

The Swedish team drew 71s from 2004 NCAA runner-up Karin Sjodin and Sofie Andersson.

Their captain Birgitta Ljung was confident about the final round. "We have an advantage on the Ocean course because all our three players are long," she said. "We are looking forward to playing it."



JAYVEE with father Jun

SPORTSWATCH

Fistorama features super-fly bouts

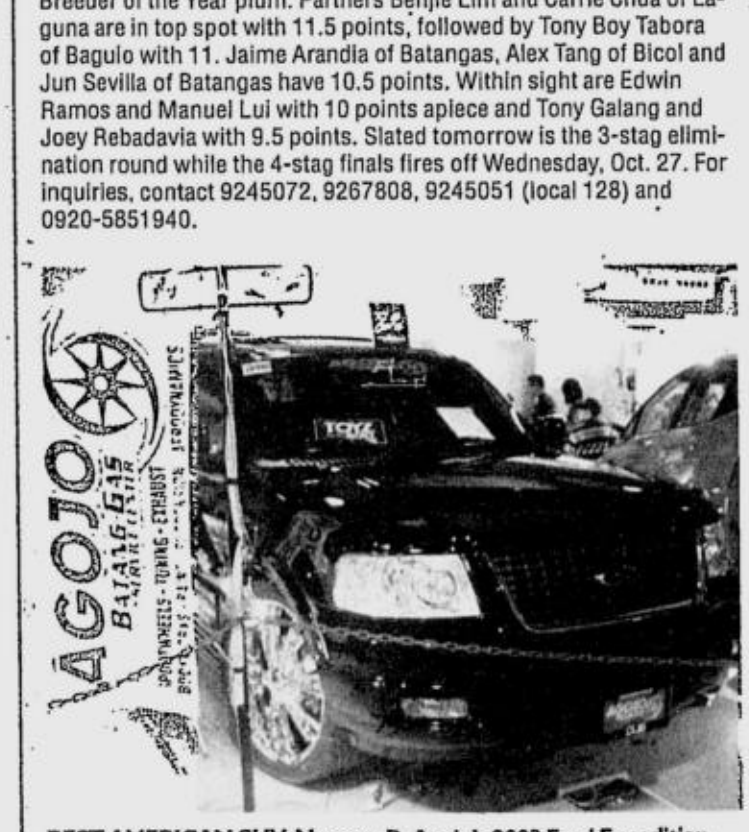
SAMSUNG'S Fistorama today features a six round bout in the super-flyweight division between Kid Orais and Roy Tarazona. The bout was held, recently at the Angono Municipal Gym in Angono, Rizal. The show is aired weekly in the United States, Europe, Australia, Japan, the Middle East and other parts of the world through ABS-CBN's Pinoy Central TV. Among boxing shows featuring local fights, Fistorama is ranked number one in viewership. The show is aired at 2 p.m., Sundays, on RPN-9 and is supported by Samsung Electronics Phils., Corp., PCSO, Mapecon and Tanduay Rhum.

Perpetual, La Salle-HSC win opener

HOST Perpetual Help-Calamba and De La Salle-Health and Science Campus fashioned out easy victories at the start of basketball hostilities of the 5th Southern Luzon Colleges and Universities Athletic Association (SLCUAA) at the University of Perpetual Help Dalta System-Calamba Gymnasium yesterday. The Altas waylaid the Colegio de San Agustin quintet, 83-31, to begin their title quest with a bang. The De La Salle-HSC cagebelles, on the other hand, beat the Perpetual Help lady cagers, 54-42, to join the opening-day winners of this athletic league featuring the top schools of Southern Luzon. UPHDS-Calamba School Director Dr. Rey Dalde, who is also the chair of the SLCUAA, made the ceremonial toss of the cage tournament sanctioned by the Basketball Association of the Philippines.

LGBA 7-stag derby tomorrow

ATTENTION will be focused at Roligon Mega Cockpit tomorrow, when the much-awaited "Luzon Gamecock Breeders Association Grand Championship 7-Stag Derby" unfolds. With more than 80 fights scheduled, the derby starts at 4 p.m. LGBA president Rene "Boy" Diaz predicts a wild rumble for the coveted LGBA Gamecock Breeder of the Year plum. Partners Benjie Lim and Carrie Chua of Laguna are in top spot with 11.5 points, followed by Tony Boy Tabora of Bagulo with 11. Jaime Arandia of Batangas, Alex Tang of Bicol and Jun Sevilla of Batangas have 10.5 points. Within sight are Edwin Ramos and Manuel Lui with 10 points apiece and Tony Galang and Joey Rebadavia with 9.5 points. Slated tomorrow is the 3-stag elimination round while the 4-stag finals fires off Wednesday, Oct. 27. For inquiries, contact 9245072, 9267808, 9245051 (local 128) and 0920-5851940.



BEST AMERICAN SUV: Norman R. Agojo's 2003 Ford Expedition was adjudged the Best American SUV in the 2004 Sport Truck, Custom Car and Bike Show held recently at the SM Megamall. Agojo's "XP" came with a mirror-finish paint job that used K92 paints, customized suspension, a novel audio system with a functional aquarium and 24" Bazo magwheels. Normanworks, a perennial producer of local auto show winners, did the "XP" makeover, while the Agojo Batang Gas Service Center in Sto. Tomas, Batangas did the customizing and detailing. For inquiries, call ABGSC (43) 778-4368 or (43) 778-3378 or e-mail autobabn@mozcom.com.

URBL CAGING

Ilocos Sur trips Cebu Province

SANTO Domingo, Ilocos Sur—Hometown team Ilocos Sur Snipers waxed hot in the final half to turn back Lactovitale-Cebu Province, 83-74, yesterday and improve their semifinal chances in the United Regional Basketball League at the Santo Domingo People's Center here.

Johnedel Cardel topscored with 22 points as he combined with Allan Yu, Francis Rauschmayer and Richard Hardin to steer the Snipers to their second triumph in five games.

The Probiotics fell to their fifth setback in six games in this tournament sponsored by Lactovitale and Adidas.

The match took a seesaw turn during the first half. Christopher Daruca, Roy Gomez and Derrick Bughao peppered the Snipers with five triples as Lactovitale-Cebu Province enjoyed a 39-36 lead.

With egging from the big crowd, led by Ilocos Sur Vice Governor DV Savellano and Santo Domingo Mayor Floro Tadena, the Snipers stormed back in the third behind Cardel, Yu, Rauschmayer and Hardin to outscore the Probiotics, 25-15, and gain the upperhand, 61-54, after three quarters.

The Snipers led as many as 13, 70-57, but the Probiotics managed to threaten at 72-76, going into the final two minutes.

Ryan Bernardo later nailed an undergoal stab to give the Snipers breathing room, 80-74, as Lactovitale missed opportunities to score due to hurried triples. Hardin and Michael Manigo sealed the win with three free throws in the final 21 seconds.

Hardin backed up Cardel with 12 points, while Rauschmayer and Yu added 11 apiece.

With their rousing home debut, the Snipers hope to carry on their good play as they collide with the undefeated M. Lhuillier-Cebu City Jewelers at 5 p.m. today.

STANDINGS	W	L
M. Lhuillier-Cebu City	6	0
Harbour Centre-Pampanga	4	2
Ilocos Sur Snipers	2	3
Quezon Coco Huskers	1	4
Lactovitale-Cebu Province	1	5

Game Today (*Santo Domingo People's Center*)
5 p.m.—Ilocos Sur Snipers vs M. Lhuillier-Cebu City

The scores:

ILOCOS SUR 83—Cardel 22, Hardin 12, Rauschmayer 11, Yu 11, D Mendoza 8, Bernardo 6, Barbosa 6, Manigo 5, Butel 2, Torrente 0, Cabradilla 0.

LACTOVITALE 74—Bughao 14, Daruca 14, Castillo 12, Briones 12, Sanz 9, Cainglet 7, Balingit 3, Gomez 3, Abellana 0, de la Victoria 0.

Quarters: 17-20, 36-39, 61-54, 83-74

Forward Taguig nears NBC title

TAGUIG—Forward Taguig continued its giant-killing run, scoring a masterful 73-68 victory over favored Tribu Sugbu (Cebu Tribes) to move a game away from bagging the NBC (National Basketball Conference) national title before an overflow crowd here.

Following its game plan to the letter, Mayor Freddie Tinga's Taguig cagers limited the Cebuanos to a miserable 38-percent field goal shooting (27 of 70) to take Game 1 of the best-of-three series.

Taguig's sticky defense stopped the 'Tribes' running game. Only point guard Ronald Bucao managed to score in double figures for Cebu.

The two teams clash anew tomorrow at the Cebu Coliseum, with Taguig shooting for the crown. If the Cebuanos win, the rubber match will be played on Wednesday, also at the Cebu Coliseum.

Leo Vilar, Ogie Gumatay and Rino Magsalin exploded for five triples as Taguig turned a 43-39 third-quarter deficit into a 54-51 lead going into the payoff period.

Six-foot-five slotman Bernard de Guia starred for Taguig with a season-high 21 points, connecting five of his six free throws in the homestretch to hold off the Tribes of businessmen Lito Gillamac, Albert Tan and Dr. Kelly Viado.

"We'll go all out in Game 2," said Taguig coach Danny Gavieres. "We can't afford to relax, considering that the Cebu Tribes are unbeaten in their homecourt."

Taguig also shocked Laguna Spring to take the North division crown in the tourney sponsored by Panasonic, Spring Cooking Oil, PCSO, Sulpicio Lines, Nature's Spring Mineral Water, Cebu Ferries, Air Philippines, Supercat, Skygo Motorcycles, Trans-Asia, Accel and Molten.

The Tribes outrebounded Taguig, 45-33, but the latter scored 15 points on 19 Cebu turnovers. Taguig also had more assists, 13-8, in the match where the lead changed hands 16 times and the count was tied five times.

The match will be shown on NBN 4 at 4 p.m. today.

The scores:

TAGUIG 73—De Guia 21, Vilar 10, Robillos 9, Gumatay 7, Roldan 7, Magsalin 6, Ricafuente 5, Alberto 3, Magsambol 2, Bernardino 0, Quimpo 0, Nuqui 0, Lozano 0, Cruz 0

CEBU 68—Bucao 11, Tengkay 9, Grijaldo 8, Larong 8, Mercado 6, Piodo 6, Almacin 5, Licanda 4, Dela Rosa 4, Elim 3, Lanete 2, Gallinato 2, Sanders 0

Quarters: 17-16, 32-33, 54-51, 73-68

COLLEGIATE OPEN: De La Salle's Michael Paclibar returns a shot as Rhaul Angeles looks during their doubles final match against University of the East's RJ Cruz and Edison Cupcupin of the Del Monte 202 First Philippine Badminton Collegiate Open at the SM Megamall Atrium. The La Salle pair prevailed, 15-7, 15-9, to pocket P25,000 and Sony Ericcson T230 mobile phone.

Enrico Halikinu guest

RED Bull center and former Blue Eagle Enrico Villanueva together with Rainer Sison will be the featured guests on Halikinu Radio this Monday at 9 p.m. on NU 107.5 FM.

Also on the program hosted by sportscaster Mico Halili are comedian Tim Tayag and indie band Narda. Guest co-hosts for this week's episode are PBA All-Star guard Olsen Racela, comedian Mhel Garrido and stand-up comic Gabe Mercado.

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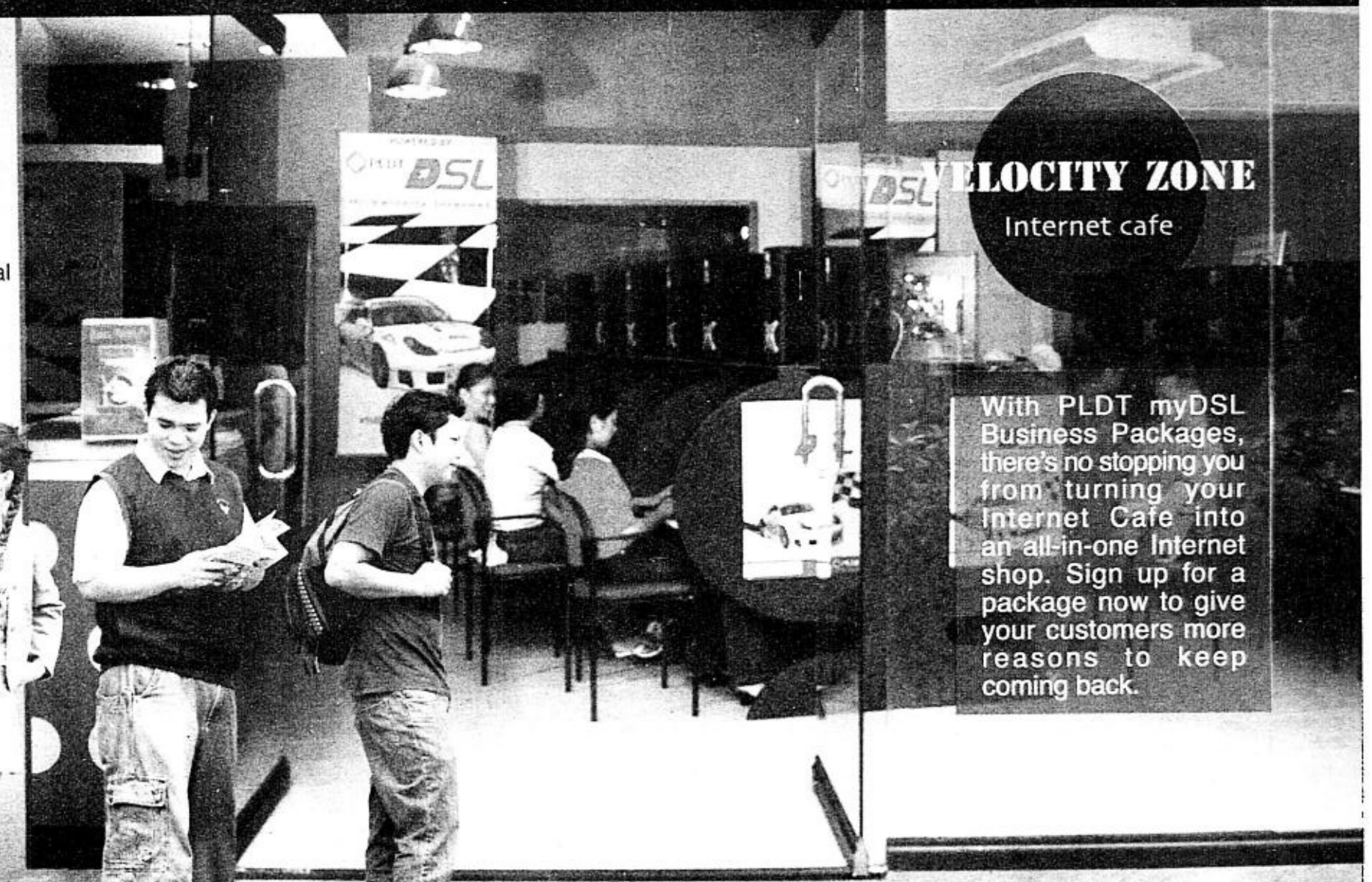

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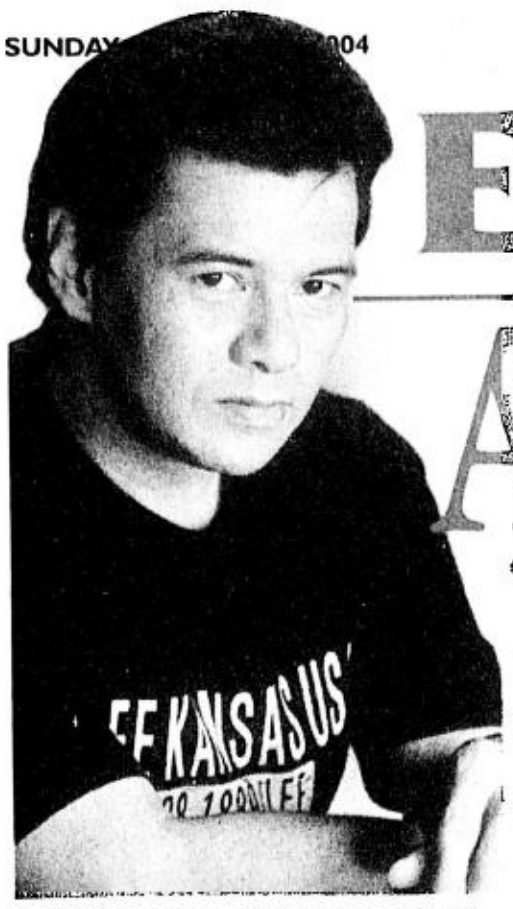
Ace is 'misunderstood,' says sister



PRIVATE PAIN. Ace Vergel puts up a brave front, says Beverly.

By Marinel R. Cruz

"HE IS strong," actress Beverly Vergel said of her elder brother, actor Ace Vergel. "We're all like that, even mom and dad. When we ache, we ache in private."

The Supreme Court last month sentenced Ace to 17-20 years imprisonment for estafa.

Ace and Beverly are children of the late '50s-'60s action star Cesar Ramirez and the late drama actress Alicia Vergel.

"My brother is oftentimes misunderstood," Beverly told INQUIRER Entertainment last Thursday. "He's used to keeping things to himself. For his family, he would always put up a brave front.

"The mere thought that my brother is going to jail is already heartbreaking. But we regularly get feedback on the status of the case, so I guess we've sort of prepared ourselves emotionally for it."

"Nevertheless, we're not giving up," said Ace's lawyer, Nelson Borja. "We're positive that we can still do something about this."

Ace, together with former actress Alona Alegre, was accused of estafa for allegedly stealing a rented car from businessman Manolito de Leon of Brism Philippines Inc. in 1991. The case was filed with the Makati City Regional Trial Court that same year.

The Makati City RTC convicted Ace in 1992, according to Borja.

"Ace is never mushy," Beverly said. "He never tells us about his worries. Whenever I ask how he is, he would always say 'OK *lang*.'

Their father Cesar Ramirez moved to the United States in 1975 after he broke up with their mother Alicia Vergel, leaving the young Ace and Beverly with their mother. Alicia died in 1993, Cesar in 2003.

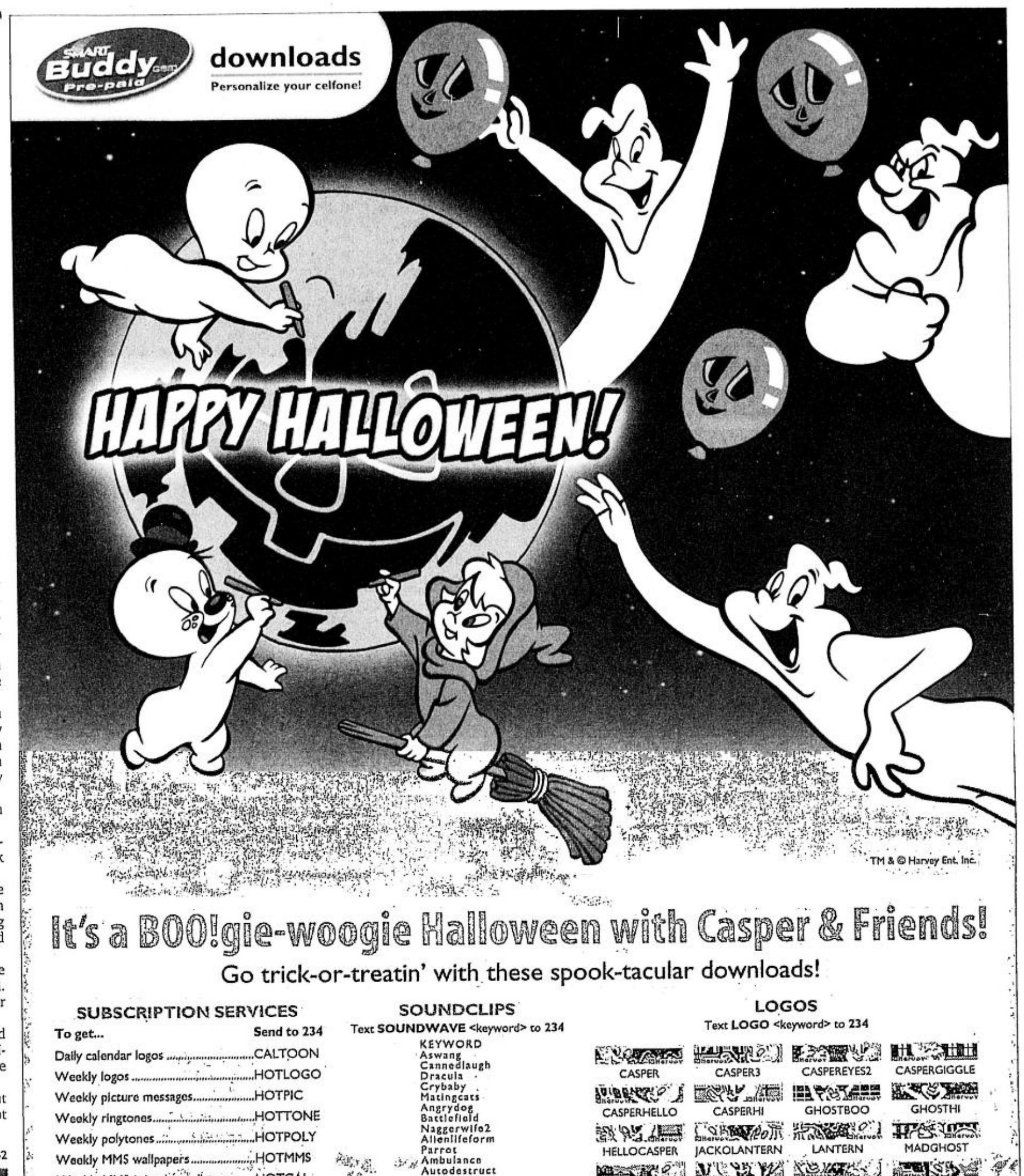
Beverly said she grew up not seeing Ace around the house. "He's always out," she said. Ace, just like their parents, has been an actor since he was a child.

Beverly said she "feels bad" that Ace did not have a normal childhood. "Young celebrities are more reclusive than other kids," she said. "They are more cautious.

"I don't know if I could have gotten him out of trouble then. I was young. There were a lot of things that were beyond my power."

ACE/ A2-2

HEARTBREAKING. The thought of his brother going to jail is breaking Beverly's heart.



Stylish, nostalgic sci-fi caper

"SKY Captain and the World of Tomorrow" takes viewers back to the early days of the movies, when "whole serial" adventures were the rage, images were more true-blue and villains were dastardly, and good could always be depended on to triumph over evil.

Why go back to those days in a 2004 production? Because the throwback is not as automatic as it sounds, and the film is in fact a combination of "old" and "new" elements that make the production one of a kind.

The "new" element is provided by the movie's sci-fi plotline. It investigates a brilliant scientist's complex plan to transport human civilization away from planet Earth, to reconstitute itself in outer space.

Thus, the film's period look is interestingly posited in contrast to its futuristic plot elements, and the effect is edgily stirring. We get the feeling that director Kerry Conran and the other people involved in this production are venturesome, enthusiastic artists who are out to make their movie unique unto itself.

The sci-fi elements they think up include warplanes that "flap" their wings, portable "airstrips" suspended in the air, planes that can be converted into submarines, and giant robots that disport themselves like metallic King Kongs and Godzillas.

Compelling creations like these threaten to make actors look like fleas—but, to their credit, the stars in this movie [**Jude Law, Gwyneth Paltrow, Angelina Jolie**] refuse to be reduced to cinematic ciphers.

With tongues firmly in check, they breezily conjure up larger-than-life performances reminiscent of **Douglas Fairbanks Jr., Greta Garbo** and **Olivia de Havilland.**

The film's finale hits new heights of implausibility, but it's par for the production's fanciful course, so viewers gleefuly go along for the ride. And it turns out to be quite a breezy, bracing cinematic trip down memory lane—and glimmering intimations of the future.

'Ginintuang Moreno'

ON OCT. 26 and 27, "Ginintuang Moreno: Tribute to Pitoy Moreno" will be presented at the CCP Main Theater. We know that the show is a retrospective of Pitoy's fashions, but how will it be structured?

Some details: The fashion retrospective opens with the Letras y Figuras suite, with models **Owen Cruz, Jigz Fernandez, Oale Bernardo, Carmen Ongsiako, Stella Valdes, Isabel Jalbuena, Alice Alemar, Sabine Kalaw,**

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

Luisa Buenaventura and **Hayden Kho Jr.**, and some Bayanihan dancers.

Piña Collections features **Bianca Zobel, Natalia Zobel, Chaps Yuson, Chaira Gana, Bianca Manalo, Carla Bautista, Menchit Soriano, Maan Bayot** and other beauty queens.

Manton de Manila has **Gladys Dueñas, Anne Manalo, Bingbing Pabular, Joanne Peñalosa, JP Abinuman and Honeylet Gascon.**

Flamenco: **Patty Betita, Badette Villalon, Lorena Pangan.**

Port Orient (Japanese): **Gladys Dueñas, Anne Manalo, Bingbing Pabular, Joanne Peñalosa, JP Abinuman. Port Orient (Oriental): Badette Villalon, Lorena Pangan, Crispy Laurel, Isabel Roces, Maricar Balagtas.**

Venice A: **Melanie Marquez, Antonette Ocampo, Menchu Soriano, Frannie Jacinto.** Venice B: **Maan Bayot** and other beauty queens.

Paris: **Chaps Yuson, Karen Agustin, JP Abinuman, Bingbing Pabular. Paris Can-Can: Patty Betita, Badette Villalon, Lorena Pangan, Gladys Dueñas, Isabel Roces, Maricar Balagtas.**

London: **Carol Garcia, Menchu Soriano, Susan Reyes, Monica Padilla, Frannie Jacinto, Maricris Zobel. London [Debutante]. Natalia Zobel, Bianca Manalo, Dorothy Haw, Diana Haw, Chiara Gana, Stella Valdez, Isabel Jalbuena, Alexi Alunan, Carmen Ongsiako.**

New York: **Patty Betita, Badette Villalon, Lorena Pangan, Gladys Dueñas, Isabel Roces, Maricar Balagtas, Chaps Yuson, Karen Agustin, JP ABinuman, Bingbing Pabular.**

Terno: **Nini Licaros, Helen Ong, Yolly Ayson, Carol Garcia, Maricris Cardenas Zobel, Crispy Santamaria Laurel, Frannie Jacinto, Maritess Revilla Araneta, Menchu Menchaca Soriano, Patty Betita, Antonette Ocampo, Margie Moran Floirendo, Susan Reyes, Cory Quirino, Bessie Badilla, Melanie Marquez, Carmen Recto, Cynthia Pastor, Ingrid Santamaria, Tingting Cojuangco.**

Wedding: **Mia Dragon Floirendo, Cristina Dragon Floirendo, Tess Dragon, Monica Padilla, Chaps Yuson, China Cojuangco, Hayden Ko Jr., Gladys Dueñas, Lorena Pangan.** Call 832-1125 or 891-9999.

JUDE LAW and Gwyneth Paltrow in "Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow"

SPC Grand Centennial

In commemoration of the centennial of the sisters of St. Paul of Chartres in the Philippines, St. Paul University, Manila is hosting 2,000 delegates coming from different parts of the country as well as from abroad. Activities start on Oct. 24 with a pictorial exhibit and the Grand Centennial Fiesta at the SPU Manila Quadrangle.

This will be followed by the gala presentation of "Women with a Heart," written and directed by Fr. James B. Reuter, SJ, at the Fleur de Lis Auditorium. On Oct. 25, there will be a thanksgiving Mass at the Manila Cathedral, followed by a centennial dinner at the SPU Manila HRM Training Center and grounds.

Ace is 'misunderstood,' says sister

From page A2-1

According to Borja, Alegre turned over to Ace the 1990 model Toyota Lancer sedan she rented from De Leon, but Ace failed to return it to the businessman. The car, worth P25,000 at that time, was allegedly stolen while Ace was using it.

"The car was never recovered," Borja told INQUIRER Entertainment last Friday.

"Ace case was tried in absentia," the lawyer added. "Ace said he could not attend the hearings because his mother was sick and was being moved from one hospital to another until her death in 1993."

Borja said Ace's first lawyer filed a motion for reconsideration before the Court of Appeals in 1993. In 2002, the CA sustained the Makati RTC ruling convicting Ace. The Supreme Court had the same opinion when Ace asked for a reversal of the CA decision in 2003.

"The SC said there was no reversible error," Borja said. "So we submitted a motion for new trial on two grounds: that there is newly discovered evidence and there were serious irregularities committed during the trial."

According to Borja, the "newly discovered evidence" meant documents proving that De Leon bought the car illegally. "The documents De Leon said were for the Toyota Lancer were registered for a Mitsubishi L300," he said.

"I will never abandon him, even if his other lawyers did," said Borja. "I'm already committed to this case."

ARKDIA NIGHTS

Party all night at Arkdia Entertainment Venue in Malate with the Lemonade and Squib Cake bands on Monday, Soul Avenue and Clymaxx on Tuesday, Surreal and Art 'n' Soul (left) on Wednesday when it's Ladies' Night Out, Twisted Pair and Ignition on Thursday, Overload and Big Nite Out on Friday, Chillworx and Soda Pop on Saturday, and Live Set and Soda Pop on Sunday. Resident DJs Jett Suarez and Jake Sta. Rosa play between bands. Arkdia is at 542-544 Remedios St., Malate. Call 404-1087, 400-9974 or 400-9776 or visit www.arkdia.com.

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SCARES, dark surprises and more await Halloween revelers at "The Witches of Spirits" party at Spirits Malate Coyote Bar on Oct. 29, starting at 8 p.m.

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THE BIGGEST, THE LONGEST, AND THE GRANDEST RUNNING EVENT IN THE COUNTRY

MMFF wants 60 percent of Baguio amusement tax

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Will local governments involved in the nationalization of the Metro Manila Film Festival end up subsidizing this Manila-centered institution?

Some Baguio officials are getting this message following theater actor Chinggoy Alonzo's petitioning the city council this week to share 60 percent of the city's amusement tax revenues with the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA).

MMDA chairs the Metro Manila Film Festival, which evolved this year into MMFF Philippines to accommodate plans to make the cinema institution a national program, Alonzo told the INQUIRER in a press conference last Wednesday.

Alonzo is the MMFF coordinator for Baguio.

MMFF has expanded to include the cities of Baguio, Cebu, Davao and Bicol. By 2010, it expects to include the rest of the country to help break the backbone of traders selling pirated videos of local movies in the provinces, he said.

Alonzo said recruiting local governments in the provinces to revolutionize the MMFF draws on the "patriotism" of the local officials because the dying film industry needs "everyone's help."

Aside from piracy, television networks and their profitable attraction to movie actors account for the substantial drain in box-office profits in the last two decades, according to Alonzo.

By expanding the MMFF, the film industry hopes to attract a new audience for films that "would be of better quality, not the *pito-pito* or the X-rated" variety, he said.

Pito-pito refers to the low-budget, quickly-made movies which directors completed in seven days.

Alonzo said the MMFF needed additional funds to make its national showcase work for the industry.

MMDA originally demanded 100 percent of the MMFF amusement taxes of participating towns and cities, but MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando, who met Baguio Mayor Braulio Yaranon last Oct. 2, requested for a 60 percent share instead, Alonzo said.

Fernando is also chair of the film festival's executive committee.

Some Baguio officials said 60 percent could be too high a price for kicking off the festival on Dec. 15.

One Baguio councilor complained, "Where will the money go really? Are all local governments shouldering the MMFF expenses in the future?"

But other councilors support the MMFF initiative.

Vice Mayor Peter Rey Bautista said he wanted an amendment to Baguio's amusement tax ceiling of 35 percent. "I feel it is too high and we are discouraging (entertainment investors) from producing shows in Baguio," he said. "I prefer 10 to 15 percent."

Alonzo said that in a scenario where every town and city is screening MMFF movies every Christmas season, the contribution of the local governments to the MMFF should have been reduced to the barest minimum.

That scenario may also include the participation of the local governments in the screen juries, which select the year's top MMFF winners, Alonzo added.

But for the kick-off festival this year, the MMDA will need the 60 percent share to pay for logistics, Alonzo said.

Baguio will launch MMFF Philippines on Dec. 15 by staging the first "Parade of Stars" on Session Road.

Film producers participating in the film festival are required to include in the Baguio parade at least two major stars of their MMFF entries, Alonzo said. *With a report from Donna Demetillo, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

MOVIE GUIDE

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2 THE NOTEBOOK
3 (DOLBY)

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2 MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
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3 (DTS) OPEN WATER
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2 HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS
3 HAUNTED SPIRIT-2
4 LADDER 49

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
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4 SECRET WINDOW
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SM City Cagayan Cinema 3

THE NOTEBOOK MTRCB Rating: PG13
SM City Dasmariñas Cinema 2

OPEN WATER MTRCB Rating: R 13
SM City Bacoor Cinema 6
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SM City Iloilo Cinema 8
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SM City Davao Cinema 2
SM City Lucena Cinema 2

SHARK TALE MTRCB Rating: G
SM City Bacoor Cinema 6
SM City Cagayan Cinema 4
SM City Marilao Cinema 2
SM City Iloilo Cinema 4
SM City Bagulo Cinema 1
SM City Lucena Cinema 4
SM City Cebu Cinema 1
SM City Davao Cinema 6

SKY CAPTAIN AND THE WORLD OF TOMORROW MTRCB Rating: PG13
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Said Enrique Olives, AVP for ABS-CBN Interactive, "Now more Filipinos can watch top-rating ABS-CBN programs such as 'TV Patrol,' 'The Buzz,' 'Asap Mania,' 'Maalaala Mo Kaya,' 'MTB,' the teleseryes, Star Cinema blockbusters and the archived best of the UAAP games through the service which is accessible 24 hours a day and seven days a week.

"All you need is a PC and 'ABS-CBN Now!'" he added.

Said Karin Ting, ABS-CBN Interactive director, "As a token of our appreciation, we launched our 'Fly Free' promo where prizes await both subscribers and non-subscribers whenever they successfully refer their relatives and friends."

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The Fly Free promo is from Sept. 15, 2004 to Jan. 15, 2005 only (Manila time).

Show biz programs and the battle for No. 1

JUICE

Jo-Ann Q. Maglipon

"THE BUZZ" was mean last Sunday.

I don't say the whole show was, but neither do I say this was the only time it has been. Having been away from the tube for a time, I may have missed even more shining examples.

I just know that I ended up wincing Sunday.

The show had this hyper voiceover that accompanied itself with what I can only call multiple leery laughter. The kind that thinks it has scored after humiliating someone. The kind that comes with a taste for *venganza* and the jugular.

This is not *sutil*, this is not playtime, this is not fun, this is kill time.

(And if that voice belongs to **John Lapus**, I cry at the thought of this man's huge talents being abused in this fashion by his own network.)

The voiceover was poking fun at things which, even at our lowest, we should only be whispering about—and following up with a sign of the cross so that Satan doesn't come recruiting!

It was guffawing over the flab in a young actor's middle. Ridiculing a young female star's hair in the armpit. Snickering about the English of the stars.

I kept thinking: Why and how and when did the show go so low?

Sure, on the screen a young male star's capital is his body, and having no flab is sterling sign of personal discipline—but I ask: Who gave these guys the right to pounce on that and grind at it like some beast to a prey? They might comment on it as part of the almost superhuman demands of cinema on the human body, why not, but to hound the boy in this way?

Pray: Can you guys even pass a flab test yourselves?

Sure, long hair on a girl's armpit is not the currently accepted convention—but what gods are they to shame someone in this manner? How would they feel if they were that girl's brother? Right. Think murder.

Think too: Are you really such specimens of beauty and grooming yourselves?

And sure, getting their English right is a plus for any star—but what icons of diction and idiom are they that would presume to flagellate others for every misstep? How colonial can anyone get in an age when to say "get back to the colonies" is to court world censure?

And answer this: If you guys were lined up, will you actually pass a basic English grammar and diction test? Or will all the educated blokes in this country have a riotous dinner at your expense?

Cheapest level

"The Buzz" was shaming the stars over these non-issues on no less than national television, too, which only means that the show was pinning down the visceral and mental lives of its audience to the cheapest level.

And this being the show-biz program that its network touts as No. 1 in entertainment, we can only imagine how many people—millions should be a good number—these stars now have to hide their faces from wherever they go in the country.

Yet, in a terrible mix-up of good and bad, the program's ratings will actually feed on this and keep going up and up.

Add this to the final blow: The show went to town humiliating only stars belonging to "the other" channel!

Texting Kris

After wincing, I stewed. I ended up texting **Kris Aquino** even while she was still on the air.

Why Kris? Simply because I've always liked this girl. Through all her excesses and bad judgments, she's never struck me as mean-spirited or tight or ugly. True, she lashes out even from the unfair advantage of TV, but thus far she's done so from blind fury and not premeditated venom.

So I couldn't for the life of me understand why "The Buzz" wasn't picking up from her kind of spirit. She is the show's crowd drawer, after all!

Kris texted back (and I'm sorry I failed to get her permission to use this): "Sorry *ha*. But Jo Ann on a weekly basis 'Star Talk' subjects me to humiliation and *lait*. Will forward your text to **Roxy** [**Liquigan**, 'The Buzz' supervising producer]."

And she is right.

GMA 7 does the very same thing!

It will so carelessly mount an attack on stars from "the other" station but will zealously "protect" its own to death.

It will leave its stars untouched, even if a controversy there promised a bit of ratings. Because, well, it can get those numbers just as easily by "outing" the other channel's matinee idols, releasing blind items suggesting their immorality, or hinting at fissures in their marriages.

There is motive, there is opportunity, there is means. It is the murder of entertainment!

Descent to No. 1

GMA 7's "StarTalk" does to Kris and other ABS-CBN talents what ABS-CBN's "The Buzz" does to GMA 7 talents.

It has almost become a question of who is doing it to more stars more often more crassly.

And everything comes down to these two networks' drag-down fight to be No. 1!

Question is: Is this what it means to be No. 1?

To be the most murderous and the most vicious? To make entertainment a killing field? To tap into everyone's lowest common denominator?

Both stations forget that they are still in every way part of the broadcast industry, which is integral to the media profession, which in turn falls under basic journalistic rules.

Foremost of which is fairness.

Where is the fairness in mowing down a new star's sense of self because of hair in the armpit? And only because she happens to belong to the competing station and, even there, may be too small a star to get her network roused?

That's another thing: It's the small stars that get it every time.

Judy Ann Santos will not get it, not alone because she is nice, but because her manager is feared. **Claudine Barretto** will not get it, not even because she doesn't deserve it, but because her handler is powerful.

They're big; they're safe.

True, big ones like Kris and **Goma** will get it sometimes, but that's because these two are magnets for public love or public hate. No one is indifferent to these two! But they will not get it *all the time* because they have the means to fight back: They have big bucks, they have strong managers, they have their networks' backing.

So we're back to the networks. For in the end, it is they that determine whether their entertainment programs will go in one direction or another.

One memo alone can do it—or undo it.

But I guess if the continued crassness brings in the numbers, chances are we'll simply be wincing through many more Sundays. Being No. 1—whether having it or having it to wrest back—is the god before which all talk of "service" to nation and country flies.

And entertainment is always commissioned in every network war to be No. 1!

IN THE frontline of the network war is always the show-biz talk shows: Boy Abunda and Kris Aquino (above) in "The Buzz" and Lolit Solis and Butch Francisco in "StarTalk." PHOTOS COURTESY OF YES! MAGAZINE

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER TV GUIDE Sunday, October 24, 2004

INQredible Pinoy! Byline Inquirer Inquirer In-Depth

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Cinema One				S2pid Luv				My Movie				Bagong Buwan				Mano Po 2			Red Diaries
Studio 23							Sports TV	Game Plan	7th Heaven		Boston Public (7:50 PM)	Gilmore Girls		Studio 23 Present				Real Deal	Cyber Pop
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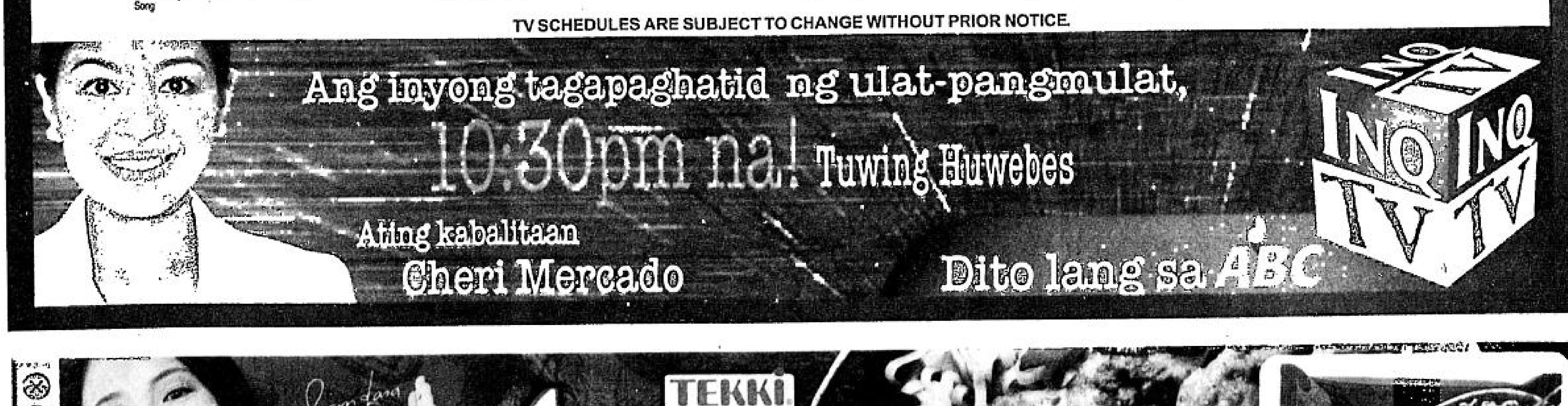
Lifestyle Network	HGTV Special		Radical Sabbatical	Road & Track	Genuine Article	Food Fight	Date Plate	Emeril Live		Nigella Bites II Temple Food	Brini Maxwell Show	Royalty A-Z		Fashion Emergency	E! True Hollywood Story		Planet Parent	Sweet Dreams	Fashion Trance
HBO			Clockstoppers			Mission Impossible				Men In Black II			Old School	Sex & The City Boy, Interrupted	The Bourne Identity		Pavilion Of Women (11.50PM)		
Star Movies			Hollywood One On One	Home Alone (4:35 PM)			Signs (6:15 PM)				The Grid			Con Air (9:35 PM)				Air Strike (11.35PM)	
Cartoon Network	New Scooby & Scrappy-Doo Show	The Detective Squad	Tom & Jerry Show	What's New Scooby Doo?	X-Men Evolution	The Powerpuff Girls	Atomic Betty	Xiaolin Showdown	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles	He-Man & The Masters Of The Universe	Scooby-Doo On Zombie Island			Power Rangers Wild Force	Samurai Jack	Time Squad	Harvey Birdman (11.15PM)	He-Man & The Masters Of The Universe	X-Men Evolution
ESPN				Goals!	X-Games - Day 3 Part 1 LA, CA		World Pool Masters 2004, Egmond Aan Zee		Premier Snooker League 2004 Wiltshire				English Premier Football League (9.55 PM)				Super Basketball League Taiwan All Star Game		
Disney Channel	Sabrina's Secret Life	Lion King's Timon & Pumbaa	Quack Pack	That's So Raven	Martin Mystery/ Kim Possible				That's So Raven				My Wife And Kids	That's So Raven	Even Stevens	America's Funniest Home Video	Wonderful World Of Disney		
Cinemax			Hanging By A Thread (4:15 PM)	The Fisher King (4.45 PM)					Dead Heat (7.10 PM)				Dead Easy			The Core (10:40PM)			Along Came A Spider
Hallmark Channel	She's Too Young				Frankie And Hazel				Ann Rule's: Stranger Beside Me				Happy Hour			Cactus Kids (10:35PM)			Napoleon (12:15AM)
Discovery Channel	Human Discovery		Extreme Machines		Unsolved History				Wild Discovery				Rides		Human Senses		Extreme Discovery		
MTV Philippines					MTV Rockid	Dismissed			MTV Screen		Spring Break		MTV Diyes						Non-Stop Hits
EWTN	The Chaplet Of Divine Mercy In Song	Fatima Heaven's Peace Plan	Saints And Heroes	Faith Factory	Rosary With Mother Angelica	Life Is Worth Living	The World Over		Octava Dies	The Church And Culture Today	Daily Mass		Angelus (9.15 PM)	Benediction And Devotion Encore	The Journey Home		Life on The Rock Encore		EWTN Gallery

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.



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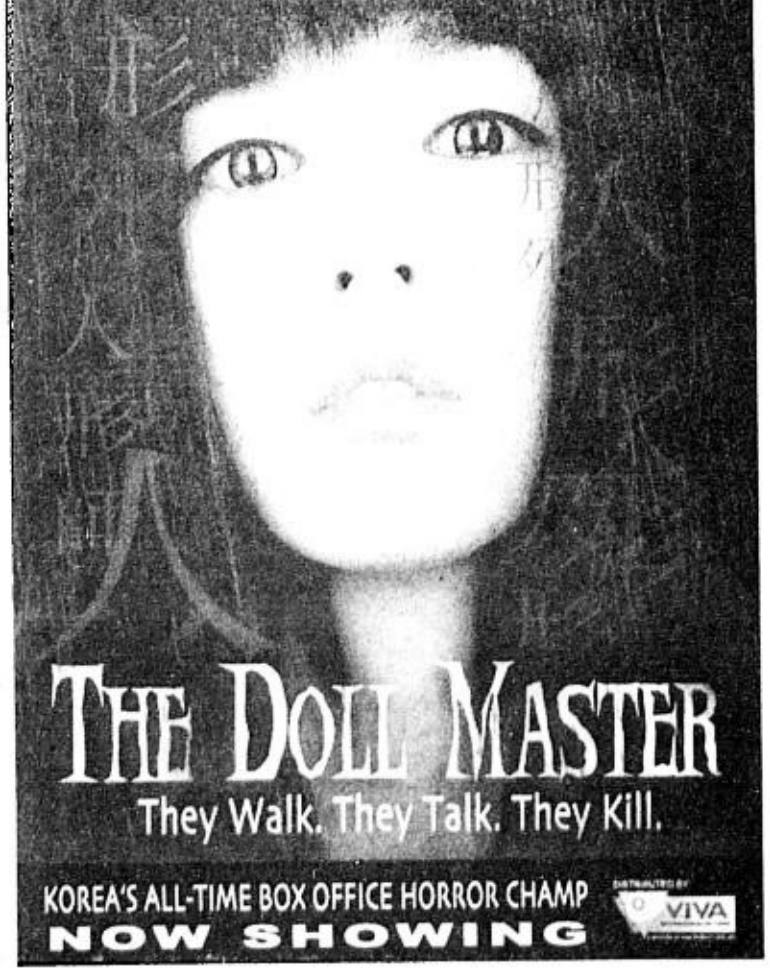
HAPPY DOLL-WEEN!
The people have decided.
The must-see movie for Halloween!



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NOW SHOWING
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A SPECIAL HALLOWEEN PRESENTATION

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DO YOU HOLD A GRUDGE? FIND OUT ON OCTOBER 27

After "THE RING" comes the American remake of another super-scary Japanese movie produced by Sam Raimi (SPIDERMAN)

SECOND WEEK!

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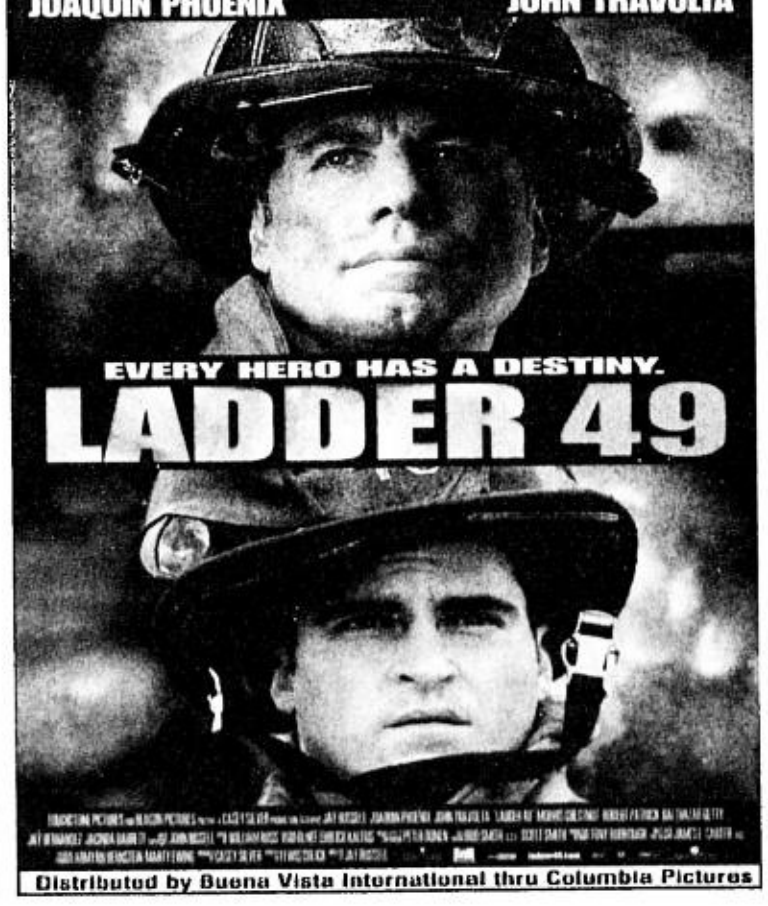

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MTRCB RATING PG-13 2ND WEEK!

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三更 THREE

WINNER & BEST PICTURE, BEST DIRECTOR, BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY, BEST ACTOR

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Liwayway 8.30.48 from the LOPEZ MUSEUM collection / Courtesy of KOMIKS CAFE / INQ EDITION 10.16.04

Laugh Out Loud as FBI Agents Go Undercover!
5th GENDER BENDER COMEDY DAY!
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To protect two white divas, they have to become them.

WHITE CHICKS
FROM THE DIRECTOR OF "SCARY MOVIE"
Distributed by COLUMBIA PICTURES

Last call for entries to first Philippine digital film festival

SHOW TIME

.MOV, the first international digital film festival in the Philippines, is gathering entries for this year's festival.

.MOV is a cultural festival that celebrates cinema from all over the world, with focus on digital cinema. It combines lectures and seminars with public screenings of movies via digital projection.

It accepts works of all forms: long or short, experimental or straight narrative, fiction or documentary, as well as installations.

One of the main aims of the festival is to promote and expose to foreign audiences Southeast Asian cinema, specifically Philippine cinema.

.MOV will feature an international jury of film critics and professionals in both the Southeast Asian features and Southeast Asian shorts competitions, as well as a Philippine short film competition.

There will also be an exhibition program of features and shorts.

.MOV will be held in Cebu City, from Dec. 1 to 7, 2004.

The deadline for submission of festival entries is Oct. 31, 2004.

The deadline for submission of entries to "Smart Cuts," the 60-second short film competition of .MOV, is on Nov. 5, 2004.

Entry forms, festival mailing address, and other preliminary information can be found at the festival website: www.movfest.com

Inquiries regarding submission of works may be sent to alexistioseco@gmail.com.

Gellar Holds "Grudge"

Sarah Michelle Gellar on the cover of Entertainment Weekly

Buffy the Vumpire Slayer's hot babe *Sarah Michelle Gellar* stars in **The Grudge**, an English-language remake of the Japanese horror flick of the same title.

The movie's title refers to a violent curse issued by a person who died an unnaturally angry death. The curse lives by moving on to a new victim each time somebody dies.

The original chip-on-the-shoulder Japanese flick, **The Grudge** (Ju-On), was itself based on a TV movie of the same name. The Japanese version of The Grudge was rated as one of the scariest movies in Japan — on a par with another seat-clutching export, Ringu, which was translated into last summer's english remake hit 'The Ring'.

The Grudge is being helmed by the original writer-director *Takashi Shimizu* and is produced by Hollywood's hottest talent *Sam Raimi* (DIRECTOR OF SPIDERMAN) with the help of Taka Ichise, who also worked on the American version of 'The Ring'.

Columbia Pictures will release this film in North America on Oct. 22 and Thailand Hong Kong and the Philippines on Oct. 27. [BY LIA HABERMAN]

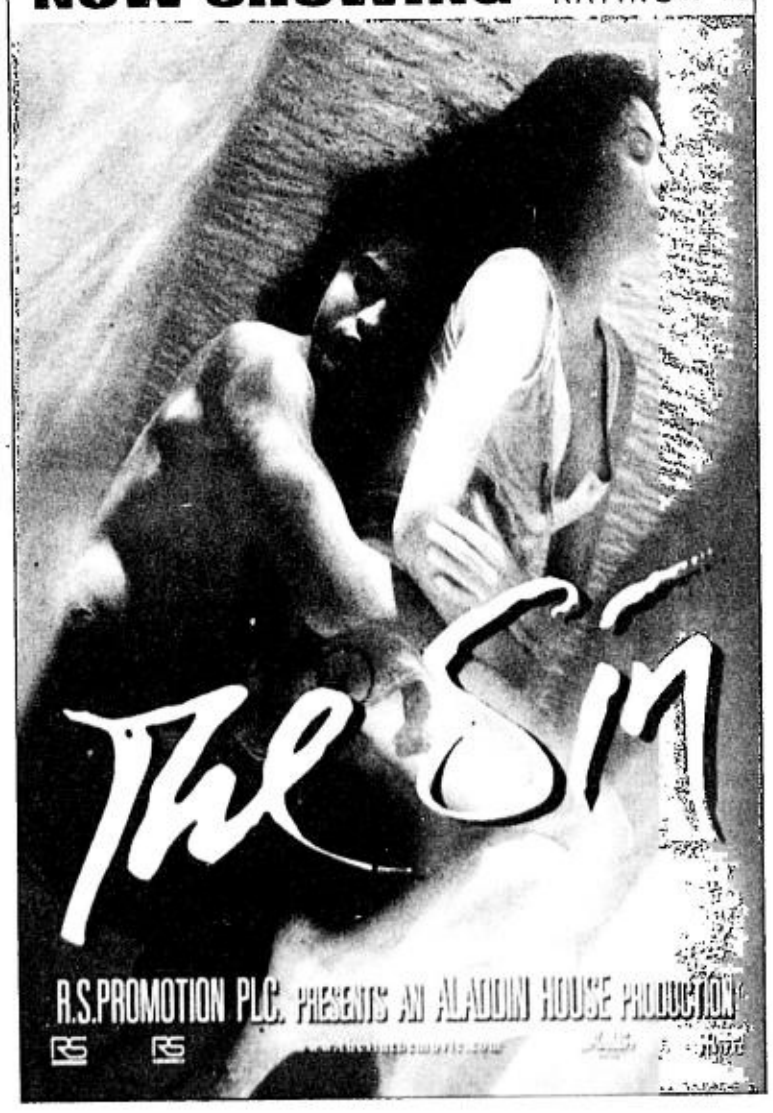
ADVT.

SEAFARERS DAY

In celebration of Seafarers Day, Touch Mobile, together with Globe Handyphone and in partnership with the United Filipino Seafarers, treated Filipino seamen and their families on Sept. 26 to an afternoon of fun and entertainment featuring Kempee de Leon (above) and Tuesday Vargas. The event was part of the 1st United Filipino Seafarers Summit, Sept. 24-26, at Harrison Plaza.

DIAL THE RIGHT NUMBER TODAY
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 PARENTS ARE CAUTIONED IN BRINGING ALONG KIDS OF 7 YRS. & BELOW BECAUSE OF SOME SCENES THAT MIGHT STRESS THEIR SENSIBILITIES.

NOW SHOWING MTRCB RATING R-18



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Skater Boy	RA033
Back Street Boys	CODE
Quit Playing Games	RA028
I'll Never Break Your Heart	RA019
Shape Of My Heart	RA031
Britney Spears	CODE
Baby One More Time	RA002
Everytime	RA008
Toxic	RA039
The Calling	CODE
Adrienne	RA001
Could It Be Any Harder	RA004
Wherever You Will Go	RA045
Christina Aguilera	CODE
Genie In A Bottle	RA012
Come On Over	RA006
I Turn To You	RA022
Justin Timberlake	CODE
Like I Love You	RA026
Rock Your Body	RA029
Señorita	RA030
Maroon 5	CODE
Harder To Breathe	RA015
She Will Be Loved	RA032
This Love	RA037
N'Sync	CODE
It's Gonna Be Me	RA023
Bye Bye Bye	RA003
This I Promise You	RA036
R. Kelly	CODE
Ignition	RA018
I Believe I Can Fly	RA016
Thoia Thoing	RA035
Outkast	CODE
Hey Ya	RA014
Ms Jackson	RA027
The Way You Move	RA038
Pink	CODE
God Is A DJ	RA013
Last To Know	RA024
Trouble	RA040
Sarah McLachlan	CODE
Fallen	RA010
Sweet Surrender	RA034
World On Fire	RA046
Usher	CODE
Can You Help Me	RA005
You Remind Me	RA044
You Got It Bad	RA042
Vertical Horizon	CODE
I'm Still Here	RA020
You're A God	RA043
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A3-1

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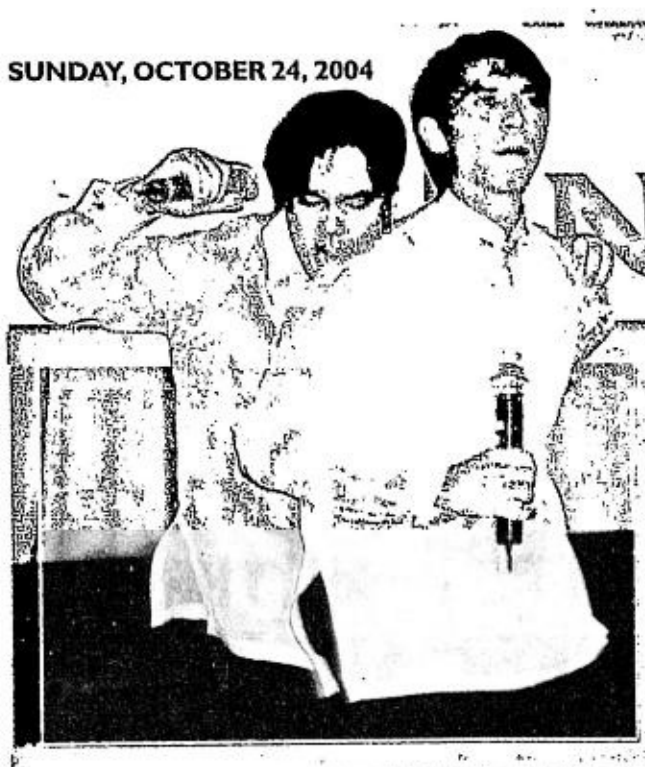
Assistant Editor **Emmie G. Velarde**



AFTER putting his pants back on, Lou Diamond does a pas de deux with Martin.

FILIPINO AMERICAN LIBRARY BENEFIT GALA

Martin, Lou Diamond bring the house down

The people had a good time but they came mainly to help raise funds for a downtown LA repository of over 6,000 Fil-Am books and magazines

By Ruben V. Nepales
LA Correspondent
PHOTOS BY JANET SUSAN R. NEPALES

LOS ANGELES—Lou Diamond Phillips arrived at the Filipino American Library's dinner benefit gala looking very sedate in a *barong*.

When Lou was called to introduce one of the night's honorees, Rob Schneider, a flash of sparkling blue, accompanied by a rustling sound, whizzed by us. When the blue "thing" materialized onstage, it was Lou minus his black pants. Lou was now wearing a sparkling blue hula skirt, borrowed from one of the Halau Keali'i O Nalani dancers who performed earlier.

Picture the Fil-Am actor in a barong, black socks and shoes and "seductively" flashing a leg through the hula skirt. He even scratched his behind and adjusted his underwear from the back to comic effect. Bless that skirt; Lou was on a roll from then on. The man has appeared in women's clothes before, in a cameo as a transvestite undercover cop working with Harrison Ford in "Hollywood Homicide."

But this time, he surprised and wowed the guests two Saturday nights ago at the Millennium Biltmore Hotel (where Lea Salonga and Robert Chien had their wedding reception) with his reckless comic abandon and on-the-spot ad libbing. Lou, who used to sport long hair just like Jose Llana, one of the evening's terrific performers, quipped, "My hair went to Jose Llana's head."

After announcing that Rob Schneider couldn't come to accept his 2004 Spirit Award because he was "entertaining troops overseas," Lou went on to extol Schneider as an "inspiration to Filipino Jews." That earned him one of the biggest laughs, of course.

The actor mentioned "the other Filipino Jew," Fritz Friedman, top executive at Columbia TriStar Home Entertainment and the moving force behind this annual fundraiser for the Filipino American Library which houses the largest collection of Filipino and American materials in the US.

The energetic Fritz, according to Lou, brings *mabuhay* and *mazel tov* together. He is chair of the board of the Filipino American Heritage Institute. This is Fritz's pet project every year. Rose Estepa Ibanez, president of the Filipino American Library, and many volunteers helped the gala live up to its theme this year: fiesta.

Pas de deux

Lou performed an impromptu Hawaiian dance number where he showed more of his gams. Acknowledging the guffaws and applause, he exclaimed, "*Shalom-at po*!"

Did we mention that Schneider's award was for being a "role model"? Yes, the same guy who exposed his right nipple (adorned with jewelry as his "tribute" to Janet Jackson's Super Bowl Nipplegate scandal) to us and other reporters covering the premiere of his movie, "50 First Dates."

Miss Universe 1997 Brook Lee, a Hawaiian stunner who called herself an honorary Filipino, got into the event's humorous vein by introducing Martin Nievera as someone who auditioned for "American Idol" but they chose another Filipino-Hawaiian, Jasmine Trias, instead.

Martin continued the fun mood by singing "Can't Take My Eyes Off You" to Lou and substituting the lyric "you" with "Lou." As if Lou has not yet entertained us exceedingly well, he came back (with his pants as well) on the floor to sing "The Way You Look Tonight" with Martin.

MARTIN/ A3-2

Martin, Lou Diamond bring the house down

From page A3-1

Not only did they sing this standard to each other, they did a pas de deux which brought the house down. As Martin serenaded the actor on how he looked tonight, Lou broke into ballet moves, at one point even rushing up to Martin who then held the actor up. Rudolf Nureyev and Margot Fonteyn they were not.

Standing ovation

Martin fittingly introduced "The Moment" as a song that inspires him and the Fil-Ams present to seize the moment, to continue breaking ground in America. It was an appropriate song and the perfect dedication before a crowd that had a good time but came primarily to help raise funds for a downtown LA repository of over 6,000 Fil-Am themed books and magazines.

The irrepressible Martin quipped, "I got in trouble in Las Vegas for talking too much about being a Filipino."

We have not watched Martin in many years. We were expecting the same but the Martin that we saw was an entertainer who has grown and improved tremendously since the 1980s. And while he sang his chestnut from that era, "Be My Lady," as his encore number, his performance of the song served to show how he has matured excellently as a singer.

In audience rapport, Martin is tops. Needles to say, he got a well-deserved standing ovation.

Also one of the performers was Becca Godinez, who has shied away from the limelight even as people constantly draw her out for occasional appearances. With more and more appearances of late, Becca has gotten back her confidence on-stage—and more. Like Martin, Becca has grown as an artist, showing us an entertainer with truly original bent and distinct vocal style.

Bravo, Becca!

Funny 24 hours

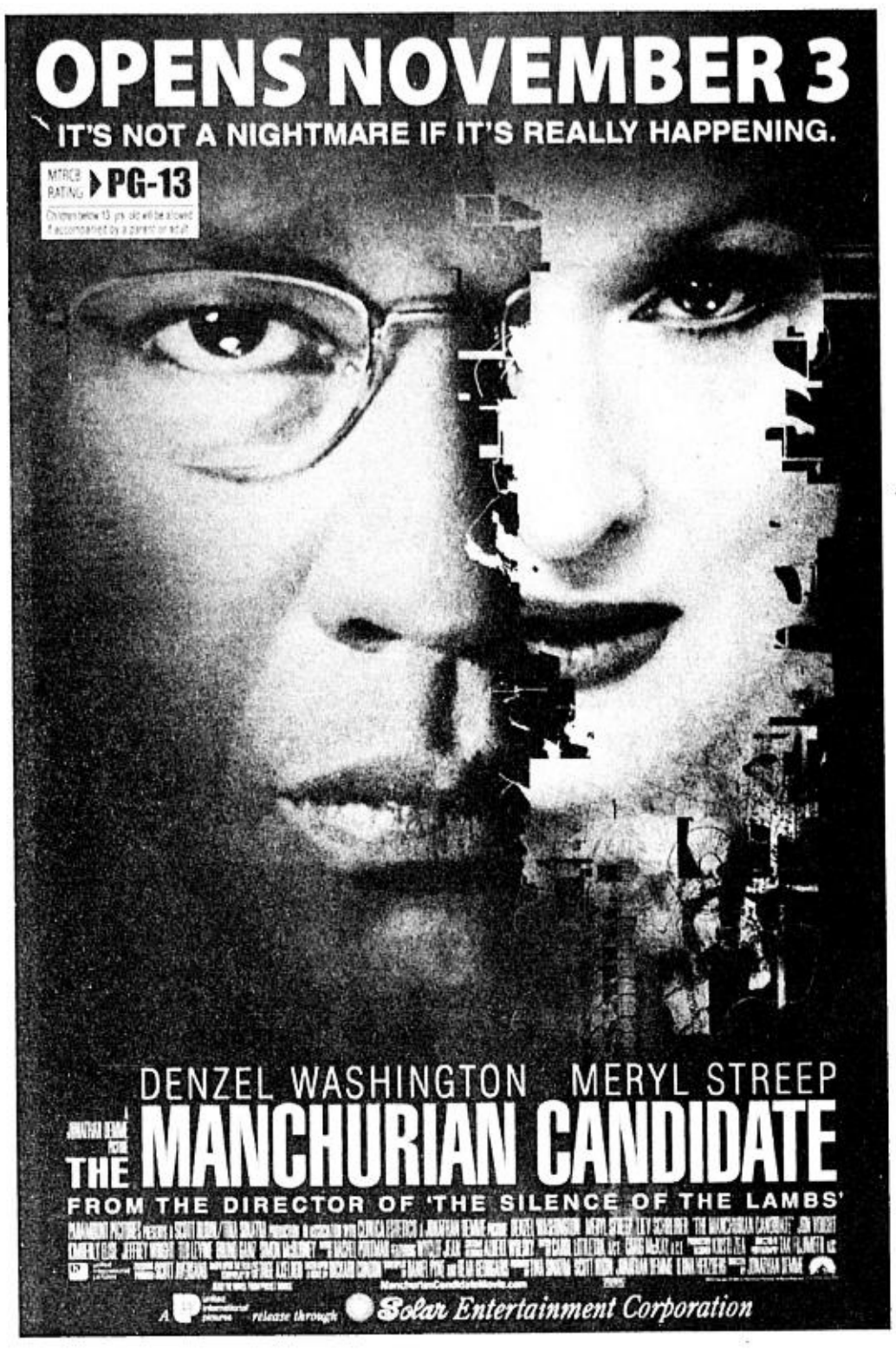
Becca's husband, Benito M. Miranda, president of Search to Involve Pilipino Americans (Sipa), and Joel Jacinto received the community service award on behalf of Sipa.

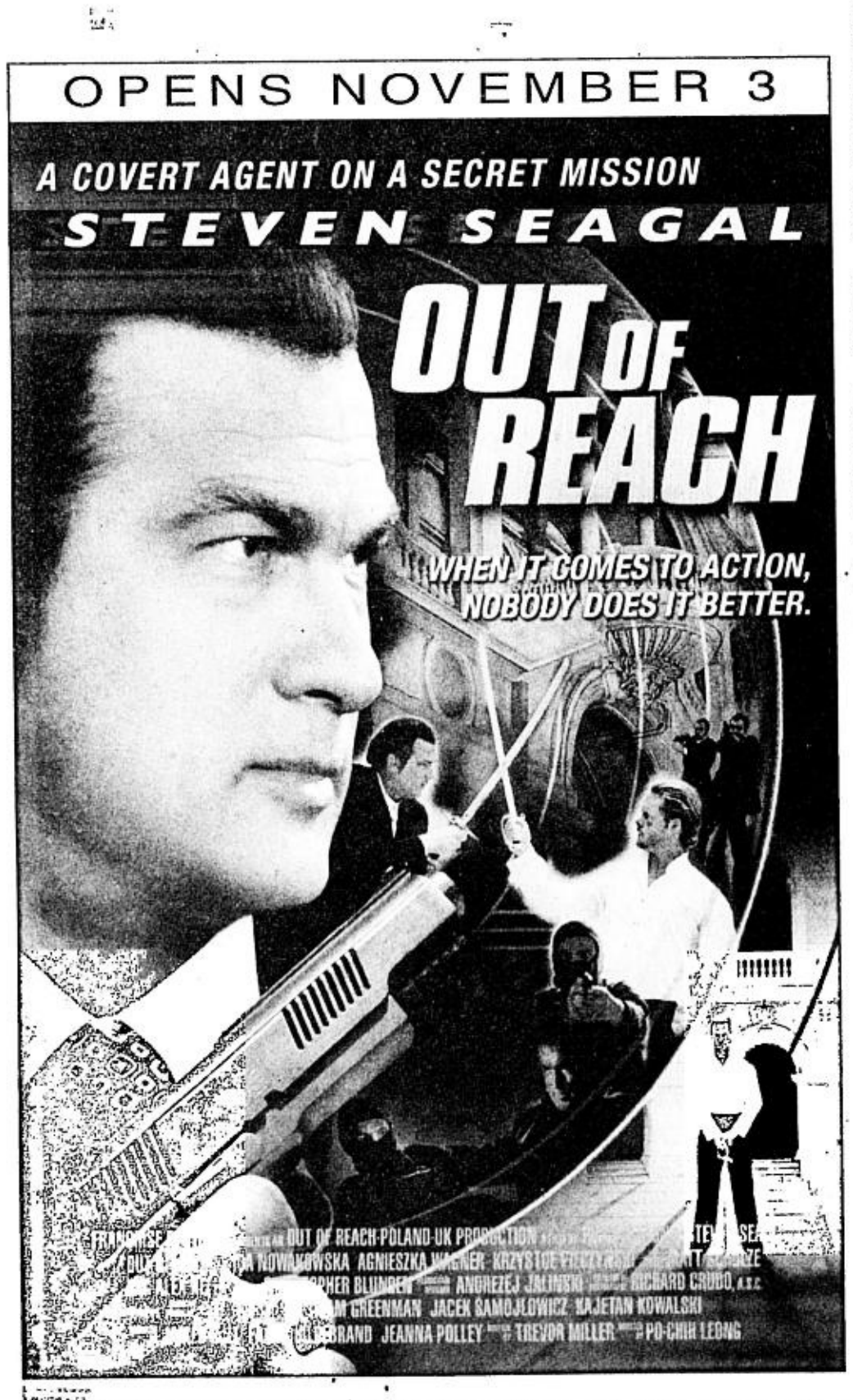
Howard Chua-Eoan was tied to his work as news editor of Time Magazine in New York so his award for community building journalism was accepted on his behalf by the award presenter herself, journalist and Fil-Am community leader Lydia Solis.

Other awardees were LA council member Eric Garcetti for public service, and Wells Fargo Bank for corporate philanthropy.

After the numbers, Lou told INQUIRER Entertainment that his movie about a beauty pageant for *lolas*, "Wrinkles," is set to start filming in late November. We were glad to hear that, for a change, he does play a Fil-

MARTIN/ A3-4





BRAD PITT'S TEMPTRESSES IN TROY.
JOSH HARTNETT'S HEARTTHROBS IN WICKER PARK.

Many who saw "Troy" were left spellbound by the stunning blond who embodied Helen. Not only did she launch a thousand ships, but more importantly, German hottie Diane Kruger set her star soaring in the Hollywood firmament. If one didn't know Homer's epic better, one would have expected Brad Pitt (Achilles) to end up with Diane. But the honor of sharing Brad's bed went to the brunette beaut Rose Byrne, Breseis in the movie. It's not hard to imagine how the enigmatic exuberance of both women must have at least made Jennifer Aniston squirm in jealousy. Now both rising ingenues will share the screen once more and mix it up with hunk du jour Josh Hartnett in the braintwisting romantic thriller "Wicker Park".

JOSH HARTNETT (PEARL HARBOR)

DIANE KRUGER (TROY)

Kruger plays Lisa, the dancer, who mysteriously disappeared the day Matthew (Hartnett) asked her to move in with him. Two years after, Matthew appears to have moved on and is in fact engaged. However before leaving for a business trip for China, he spots Lisa that sets him on a mad goose chase. In the process he runs into Alex, played by Rose Byrne, who, unknown to him, might hold the secret to Lisa's mysterious departure from his life.

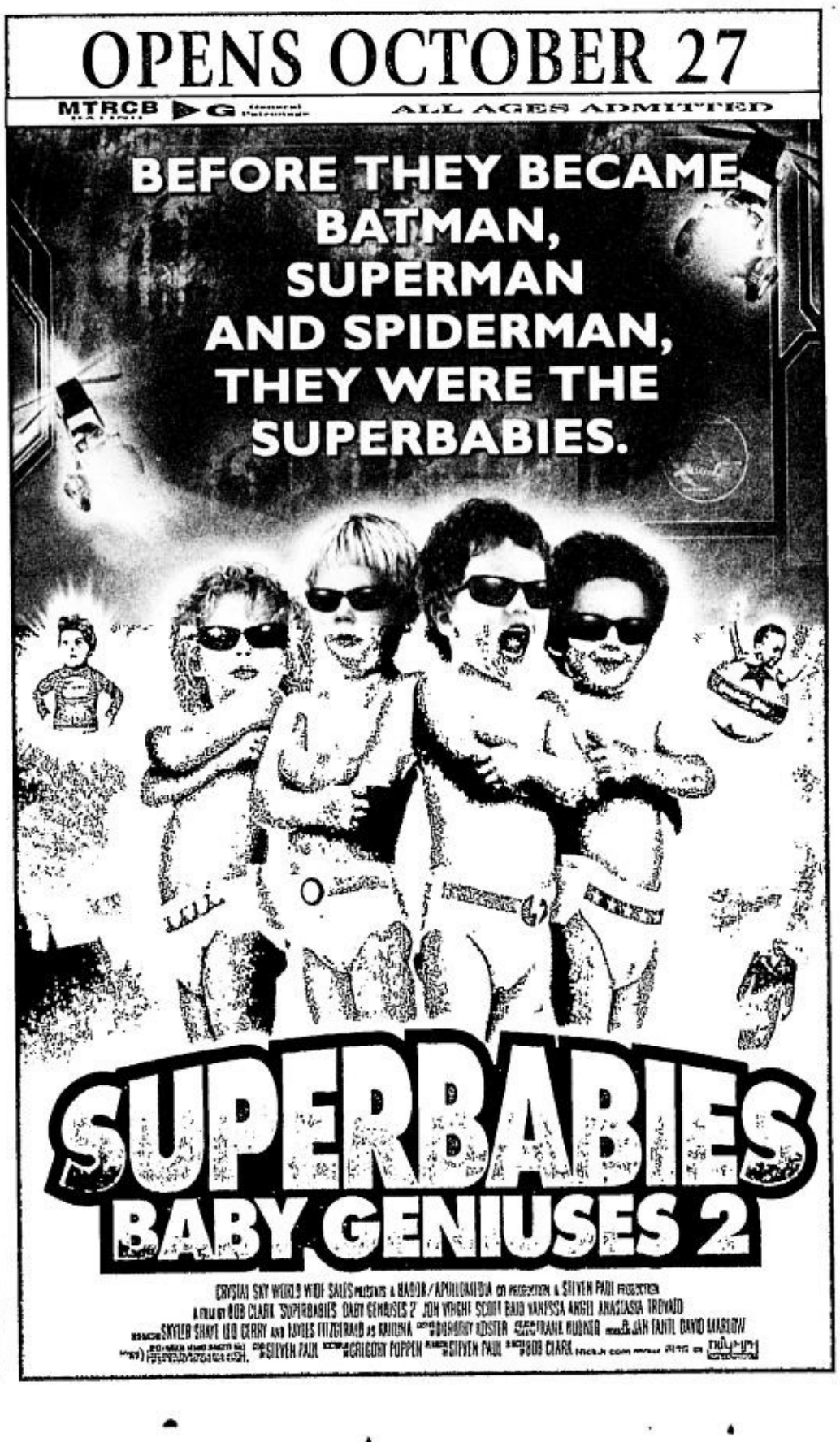
ROSE BYRNE (TROY)

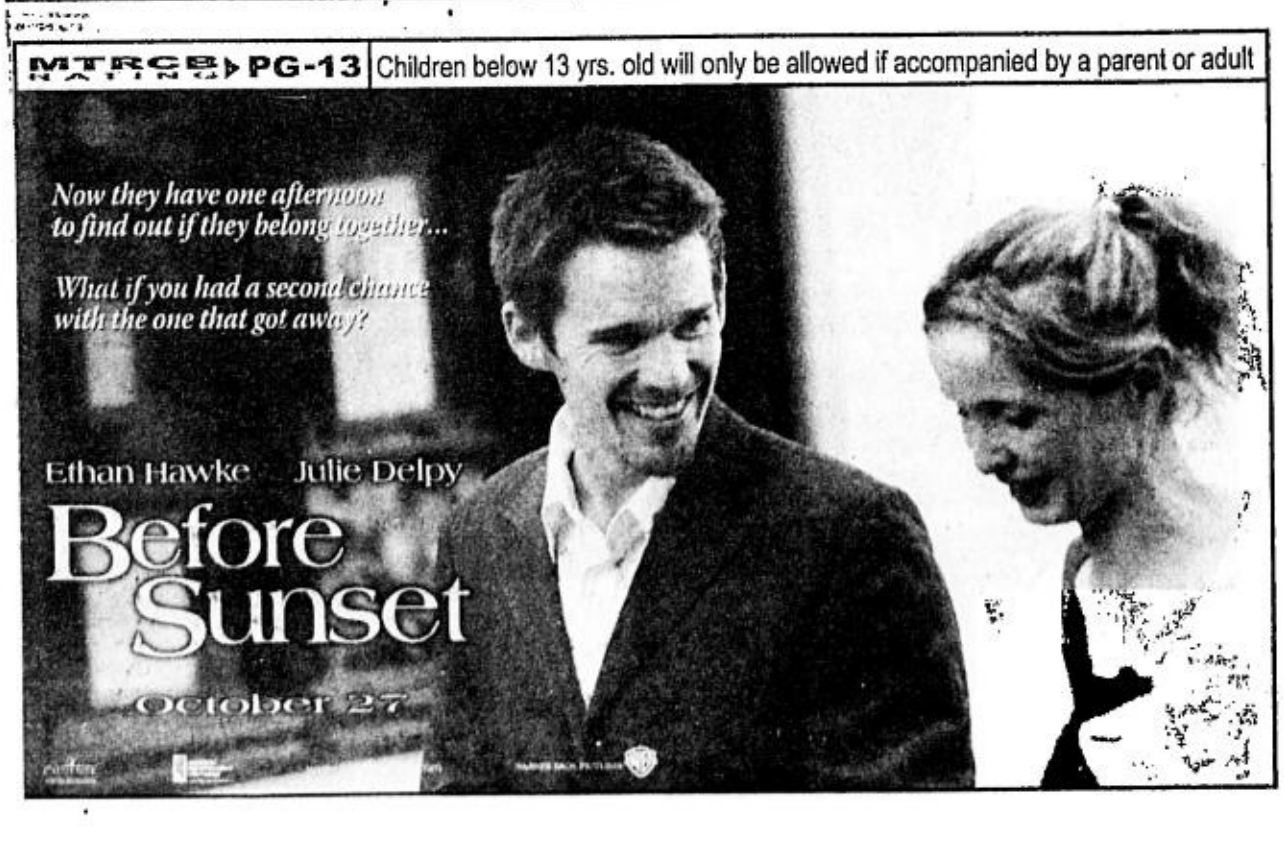
Wicker Park, a remake of the 1996 French Film " L' Appartement", combines the passion of "The End Of An Affair", the obsession of "Unfaithful" and the deception of "Killing Me Softly". Its dizzying and enthralling twists and turns will keep you glued from start to finish.

Wicker Park opens on November 10.
It is released by Viva International Pictures.

What if your one true love turned out to be one big lie?
The answer lies in....

WICKER PARK
IN THEATERS NOVEMBER 10
VIVA





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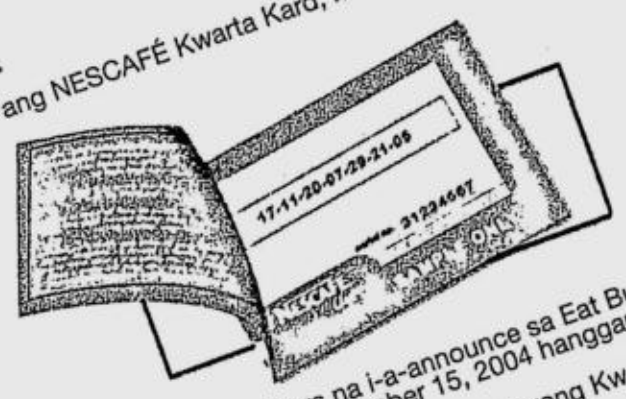

2. Bawat araw ay may 7 numbers na i-a-announce sa Eat Bulaga at MTB from Monday to Saturday, simula November 15, 2004 hanggang January 28, 2005.
3. Pag natawag ang lahat ng numbers na nasa inyong Kwarta Kard – you win!
4. The winner for the day ay mananalo ng P100,000.00 tax-free. Maaring manalo kahit ilang beses, up to P6.5 Million tax-free!
5. Ang mga Kwarta Kards ay may chance na manalo araw-araw. Itago lang sa buong duration ng promo at ingatan na huwag mabasa, masulatan, o masira ang mga ito.
6. Ang listahan ng mga winning combinations ay ilalabas din tuwing Linggo sa Manila Bulletin, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Philippine Star at People's Journal.

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PUBLIC MARKETS: GMA • Alabang • La Huerta • South Gold • Cainta • Tanay • Binangonan • Angono • Masinag • Taytay • Balintawak • Angeles Novaliches • Muñoz • Tomasco • Galas • Kamuning • Agora • Kalentong • Libertad • Hulong Duhat • Malabon Central • Agora Navotas • Marulas • Polo • Dagonoy • Sta. Ana • Zamora • Murphy • Farmers • Nepa Q Mart • Pritil • Trabajo • Blumentritt • Wagas • Quinta • Bagong Barrio • Maypajo • A. Bonifacio • **NORTH LUZON** • Baguio • Laoag • Batac • Candon • Vigan • Bangued • Cauayan • Santiago • Ilagan • Solano • Bambang • San Fernando • Bauang • Bangar • Alaminos • Dagupan • Sta. Barbara • Bayambang • San Carlos, Pangasinan • Urdaneta • Villasis • Mangaldan • Cabagan • Tuguegarao • Gattaran • Aparri • **SOUTH LUZON** • Balayan • Lemery • Bauan • Batangas City • Tanauan • Tagaytay • Silang • Trece Martirez • Cavite City • Calamba Trade Center • Cabuyao • Biñan • Suki Market • Calapan • Brookes Pt. • Pto. Princesa • Narra • Kanluran • San Jose • Odiongan • Ligao • Tabaco • Legaspi Satellite • Pili • Naga City • Nabua • Daet • San Pablo • Sta. Cruz • Siniloan • Gumaca • Lucena City • Catanuan • Masbate City • Blacer • Sorsogon City • Virac • Guinobatan • **EAST VISAYAS** • Tubigon • Carbon • Danao • Lapu-Lapu • Mandaue • Talisay • Toledo • Ormoc • Tacloban • Calbayog • Palo • Guiuan • Baybay • Ubay • **WEST VISAYAS** • Roxas • La Paz • Passi • Burgos • Bago • Cadiz • Kalibo • Himamaylan • Kabankalan • La Carlota • Sagay • San Carlos • Silay • Pontevedra • Talisay • Victorias • Bais • Bayawan • Guihulngan • Dumaguete • Siaton • **NORTH MINDANAO** • Langihan • Pala-o • San Francisco • Pagadian • Ipil • Oroquieta • Agora • Gingoog • Surigao • Mangagoy-Bislig • Puerto • Balingasag • **SOUTH MINDANAO** • Bankerohan • Toril • Calinan • Agdao • Tagum • Panabo • Compostela • Mati • Gensan • Digos • Bansalan • Koronadal • Polomolok • Tacurong • Isulan • Kabacan • Midsayap • Kidapawan • Carmen • Zamboanga • Sta. Cruz • Recodo

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

ENTERTAINMENT

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2004

Martin, Lou Diamond bring the house down

PINOY blood runs in the hearts of (from left) Jose Llana, Lou and Martin.

From page A3-2

ipino-American. When we told Yvonne Boismier, Lou's companion, that the Olongapo-born actor was a revelation for showing his comic side, she smiled and said, "Oh he is funny 24 hours a day!"

Among those who enjoyed Martin and Lou's surprise comic routines were lovely TV news anchor Maria Quiban, Unitel Pictures International's Cindy Sison, budding filmmaker Tanya Yuson, UP grad Albert Bataclan who masterfully sang both the US and Philippine national anthems, and publicist and community leader Winston Emano, who said that since this is an honest-to-goodness fund-raising affair with the entertainers performing gratis, there was none of the self-aggrandizing speeches and antics that usually dominate some of the Fil-Am events.

Winston had a point. For a Fil-Am event, this was short and quick. And funny, thanks to Martin and Lou.

And all done before 11:00," Fritz told us with a satisfied grin while pointing to his watch as we headed out.

QUICKIE. The show was short and quick, and funny, thanks to the two stars.

Don't despair. There's hope for this country.

There are Bayaning Pilipino winners, who despite their smallness and obscurity, have exemplified the true virtues of heroism through their selfless love and dedicated service to their community, the nation and ultimately, to humanity.

NENITA A. DAGOYO
Bayaning Gurong Pilipino

By leaving "regular school" to teach special education in Bukidnon, she has made it possible for disabled children to be steadily integrated into mainstream society.

PERFECTO R. VICENTE
Bayaning Pilipino (Individual)

Once part of the prestigious academe of UP-Los Baños, he gave up teaching to tend the fields, promote sustainable agriculture and advance the welfare of farmers.

BOHOL FEDERATION OF DISABLED PERSONS
Bayaning Samahang Pilipino

With the aim to collectively improve the lives of its members, the Federation has succeeded in making people with disabilities become breadwinners of their respective families.

HERMINIA A. IBARRA
Bayaning Pilipino (Individual)

A good leader and role model, she provided livelihood trainings and non-formal education for free to the Dumagat minority group in Antipolo City and Montalban, Rizal.

PRIMITIVA RANOA-GADOR
Bayaning Pilipino sa America (North)

A strong-willed woman, she started different organizations abroad with the goal to help Filipino-Americans have better opportunities and assimilate in their community.

MARVIN A. ANASTACIO
Bayaning Kabataang Pilipino

Through his sacrifice of time and determined purpose of being, he finds ways and means to teach and inculcate values to out-of-school youths.

FRANCIS P. PAPICA
Bayaning Pilipino sa America (South)

Through his determination, he was able to put up his own foundation which is involved in various programs that educates and empowers the youth of Bicol.

FLORDELIZA RIA M. MANUAL
Bayaning Kabataang Pilipino

A rural-based Physical Therapist, she serves physically and mentally challenged individuals who cannot afford to seek professional services and expensive therapies for rehabilitation.

All their stories are testaments that this country will be a better place to live in if we'll just find the hero within.

GAWAD GENY LOPEZ JR.
BAYANING PILIPINO 2004

ABS-CBN

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2004

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Sunday BIZ

E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS
The Widest Reaching Classifieds

Pages B7, B10 to B15

TONY Gloria today. Inset shows him at three years old.

Two mentors set him in the right direction

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

HE GOT his first job at age six.

Although that experience should have pointed him to the path he was destined to take, he took some wrong turns.

It took a teacher to set him straight.

Antonio I. Gloria is founder and head of Unitel Productions Inc., a leading production company that has produced the most commercials for other countries, such as Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Taiwan and Saudi Arabia.

FIRST JOB

It made such commercials as Department of Tourism ads (Shopping, Chocolate Hills, etc.); all Globe commercials including the one of Sharon Cuneta; Ginebra San Miguel (island-hopping where the guy loses weight after "swimming" to look for a bottle of Ginebra); the current Pepsi-Cola ad with Jericho Rosales and the jeepney falling off a cliff and Fibrosine (Spa).

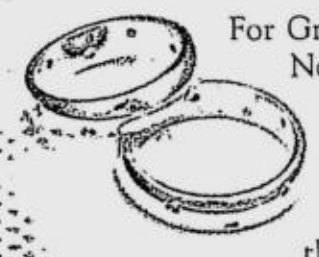
Gloria also owns Unitel Pictures Inc., which produced the award-winning "Crying Ladies."

Gloria, who still puts in 12 hours of work a day, grew up in Naga.

TWO MENTORS/B2

"When we can finally stop and smell the flowers, we know we've made the right decision."

Greg and Norma Lapeña
Ayala Westgrove Heights Homeowners



For Greg and Norma Lapeña, life has been quite a journey. Now, in the comfort of each other's arms, they can finally slow down, sit back, and literally smell the flowers. And Ayala Westgrove Heights is the perfect backdrop for their already colorful lives. A doctor and a nurse, they've been partners since the day they met. They decided to move to the U. S. shortly after getting married. There, they had successful careers, a beautiful home by the lake, a loving family. Life couldn't be more wonderful. Or so they thought.

In 2001, they were back in Manila for a visit. Coming home was a chance to enjoy the things they missed -- family, old friends, spontaneous get-togethers. They'd been away for over 30 years, but always knew they would return to spend their golden years in the Philippines. It seemed like fate, then, when a nephew invited them to take a look at a piece of property he and his wife had just acquired. After a quick tour, Greg and Norma knew they'd finally found the place. Fresh, clean air. Beautiful views. Peace and security. A place distant enough from the maddening city, but not detached from its comforts. They felt it was going to be big, very big. So that very same day, they found themselves making a reservation.

Ayala Westgrove Heights, after all, is designed to be a self-contained community. All the necessary amenities are continuously being built around it: schools, hospitals, commercial centers, groceries, churches. Only 15 minutes away from Alabang, it's a sanctuary that does not isolate, but offers a chance to escape at the end of the day.

Inside, they are surrounded by lush mango groves and rolling hills; a cool climate makes quiet afternoons all the more wonderful. The gazebo, clubhouse and children's playground for their grandchild are reasons enough not to even leave the village gates.

Greg believes that all these things make Ayala Westgrove Heights the Next Big Thing. He knows that with the Ayala Land pedigree, he can't go wrong. How Ayala Alabang thrived as a community is proof of this. And looking at their new home, he knows that this is truly the investment of their lifetime.

For Greg and Norma, life slows down at Ayala Westgrove Heights. Slow enough for them to spend each day reading mystery novels, listening to classical music or just enjoying each other's company. Being with the one you love, in a place you love – this is exactly how they wanted to spend the rest of their journey together.

AYALA
Westgrove Heights

AYALA LAND, INC.

call 848-5000 • ayala-sales@ayalaland.com.ph • www.ayalaland.com.ph

HLURB license to sell numbers, R4-99-08-0092, R4-99-08-0093, R4-99-08-0090, 01843-R4-00-05, 01844-R4-00-05, 01683-R4-00-09, and 08196-R4A-03-08.

NESTEA Brand Manager Tina Samaco and Penshoppe Marketing Communications Manager Gigi Tibi

Iced tea drink goes after 'lite' market

A GROWING segment of today's youth market is embracing a healthy lifestyle, according to research conducted by Nestea. That's why Nestea, the country's No. 1 iced tea, is going after the "lite" market with the Nestea Lite, the country's first lite iced tea.

"Nestea Lite is the ideal beverage for today's fitness-conscious youth who enjoy the refreshing taste of iced tea but don't want the excess calories. It contains 33 percent less sugar than any powdered beverage in the market, making it a suitable drink for those who want to maintain a toned body," says Nestea brand manager Tina Samaco.

One major advantage the product has over the other so-called "lite" or diet drinks in the market today is that it maintains the same taste of a regular Nestea. Retaining the taste was a paramount concern of the people at Nestea, as they took great pains to ensure that the refreshing taste won't be compromised.

It is also a manifestation that its makers understand and respond to what consumers want. Nestea has been the preferred iced tea of Filipinos for 21 years now. It has been involved in sports marketing via its annual Nestea Beach Volley competitions.

Now on its eighth year, the Beach Volley is an anticipated summer sports activity.

On the lifestyle front, Nestea Lite recently joined hands with Penshoppe, the country's leading clothes retail shop, in a campaign dubbed "Take What Fits You Right."

Explaining their choice of Penshoppe, Samaco says: "We have chosen Penshoppe to be our partner for this campaign because aside from being one of the leading clothing retailers in the country, Penshoppe also shares with Nestea Lite the idea that the cool, fun way to look good and feel right about one's self-attitude is best manifested through one's fashion style."

"Plus, today's youth not only want clothes that look good, of course they want these to fit their bodies perfectly as well and Nestea Lite helps them do just that by giving them the refreshing taste of iced tea without the extra calories, thereby ensuring that their bodies remain fit," adds Samaco.

Samaco is confident that Nestea Lite will help Nestea maintain its No. 1 position in the market, as it ultimately becomes the choice of today's youth for a drink that's "lite" and right.

Hard work reaps rewards for homegrown drugstore

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

DAGUPAN CITY—Dorothy Cruz and her sister, Marilene Cruz-Bernal, remember the days when, as young children, they and their siblings would help in the St. Joseph drugstore that their late father put up in downtown Dagupan.

"Summer vacations meant working in the drugstore daily. Thus, our costumers, especially those from the city, knew us well and would call us 'St. Joseph' as we passed by," the sisters recall.

Those days of hard work paid off.

Dorothy, 47, is now chief finance officer, while Marilene, 42, is chief operating officer of the St. Joseph chain of drugstores—adjudged the first national winner in the retail chain store category of the Drug Store Quality Awards given by the Drug Stores Association of the Philippines in Baguio City recently.

Romeo Bernal, operations manager of the drugstore chain, says it was the Department of Trade and Industry that assessed the 19 chain stores and 271 single stores in the country. The winner in the single store category was Pharmacy Corner in Quezon City.

The DTI assessed the stores using seven key factors of excellence. These are image and appearance, leadership, strategic planning, customer and market focus, information and analysis, human resource focus and business organizational results.

The Cruz sisters are actually the third-generation Cruzes involved in the drugstore business.

Their late grandfather, Mariano Cruz, owned a drugstore in Bayambang town and in Dagupan after World War II.

"Our father, Jose Cruz, spent his adolescent years helping his parents tend the drugstore," the sisters say.

A TYPICAL day at the main store of St. Joseph Drugstore in Dagupan City. RAY ZAMBRANO

When their father finished his pharmacy degree in Manila, he assumed the role in running the drugstore, expanding its operations to include wholesaling to small drug stores in Northern Luzon.

When Jose and his wife Leila started raising a family, they became business partners as well.

As the original drugstore was "inherited" by his brother, Jose and Leila established their own pharmacy, which they named St. Joseph Drugstore in 1958.

"It was a small store, with just a 3.5-meter frontage. But my father gave it a very personalized service. He was there from (the store's) opening until it closed. Customers from the city and neighboring towns called him by his first name and he called them by their first names. Dagupan then was a small city," Dorothy said.

Jose died in 1987, leaving behind the drugstore business to his wife and six children.

It was Dorothy and Marilene who took up business courses instead of pharmacy ("because we can't stand chemistry") who became involved in the business while their other siblings pursued other fields.

Marilene says the drugstore remained "small" for a long time, and it was only in 2000 that the aggressive expansion was carried out.

Before that year, there were only five branches of St. Joseph Drug Store. At present, the chain has 21 stores—eight in Dagupan, two each in the cities of Baguio, Urdaneta and Alaminos and San Fernando (La Union), and one each in Tayug, Bayambang, Malasiqui, Mangaldan and Villasis towns in Pangasinan.

Opening a branch in Metro Manila is not also a remote possibility for the drugstore chain, which has about 170 employees, Marilene says.

It was not always rosy for the drugstore owners, though. When Dagupan was devastated by the 1990 earthquake, their stores were damaged, and like most businessmen in the area, "we got depressed," the sisters say.

Mother knows best

It was their mother Leila's unwavering faith that pulled them through.

"She was so strong and she gave us the strength to go on," the sisters say.

They say their mother, the president of the corporation, remains the strong force behind the business.

"We consult her on major decisions and we trust her decisions because of her experience in the business. She really has a strong willpower," they say.

The drugstore owners, however, continue to refuse to sell contraceptives, like pills and condoms, in their stores. They say selling contraceptives would contradict their beliefs as Catholics.

"The Catholic Church does not approve of contraceptives so we decided not to sell such products since about five years ago. I believe we became luckier in business hence," Marilene, a mother of two, says.

Health programs

But the Cruzes are supportive of other health programs such as that of PhilTips, a non-government organization that asked their help in the fight against tuberculosis.

"We inform people who buy anti-TB drugs, but who do not have doctors' prescriptions, to go to a doctor first," they say.

They also support medical missions by giving free medicines.

Dorothy says Gov. Victor Agbayani sometimes asks for medicines for the provincial government's Kalusugan sa Barangay program "and we readily give medicines."

The drugstore also conducts free clinics, bone scanning, cholesterol scanning and other projects as a part of its social responsibility.

As Dorothy and Marilene look back on their childhood days when they had to tend the family drugstore, they can only be thankful that their late father trained them to become the astute businesswomen that they are today.

Two mentors set him in the right direction

From page B1

When he was six, he was the "runner" of the ticket person at a movie house.

In exchange for doing errands for her, he and a friend were given movie passes.

He and his friend would sip Royal Tru-Orange and munch on *hopia* as they enjoyed the English movie.

He still remembers watching "Robbie the Robot."

But the blissful experience was put to an end after a year, when his mother discovered his truancy.

But he was not prohibited from watching movies. Instead, he could only watch with the family, every payday.

That experience should have given him a clue about his passion, but it did not.

Tony insisted on becoming an engineer or a businessman, even if he hated figures and failed at basic course subjects.

Bad at numbers

"I was lost. I did not know what to do. I wanted to be in business but I was bad at math. I was what they called AB undecided," Tony says, referring to the phrase used by students at the University of the Philippines, who did not know what course to take.

All this time, however, he remained passionate about watching movies, being a regular of theaters like Roxanne, Odeon, Avenue.

His movie buddy was Noy Dy-Liacco, a fraternity "brod" at Upsilon Sigma Phi, and now vice president of Nestle Philippines Inc.

While still deciding on what to do with his life, he did exceptionally well at his speech and drama class.

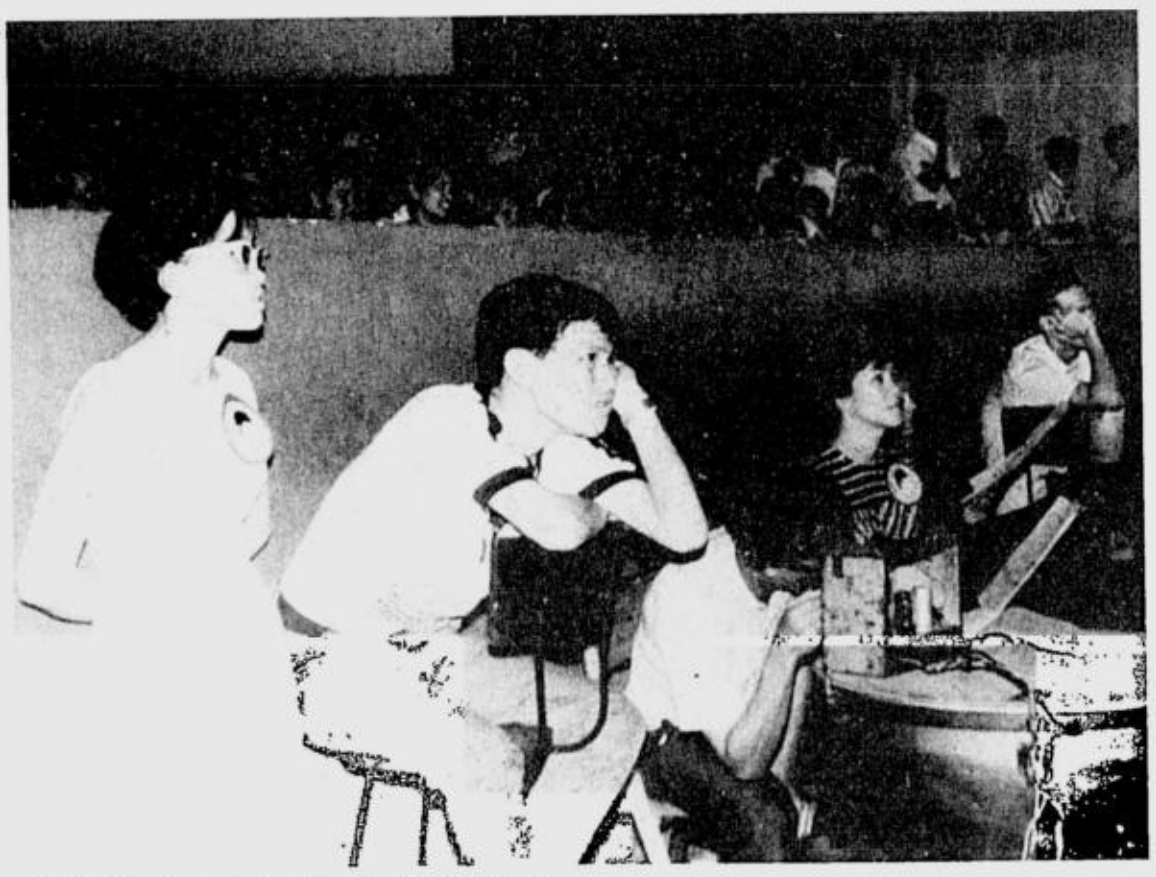
So well, in fact, that his professor, who somehow stumbled upon all the low grades he got in his other classes, was surprised when he got a 1, the highest grade in UP, in her class.

She called for him and asked him what he wanted to do.

He said he did not know, but that figures did not excite him.

She eventually convinced him to shift to Speech and Drama.

Gloria thrived in this course. In his senior year, he co-wrote, produced and directed a play called "Tisoy," based on a cartoon series by Nonoy Marcelo, with characters like Aling Otik and Ikabod.



DIRECTING Tisoy during his senior year in college.

It was such a hit that it ran for four months and was brought to other schools.

The earnings from the play were enough to sustain him for a few months after graduation in the late '60s, as he did nothing but hang around Nonoy, whom he idolized and whose mannerisms he tried to imitate — such as wearing black all the time.

Although Nonoy was 10 years older, they would go out every night to Indios Bravos, the hangout of the intellectuals then.

It was there that for the second time in his life, a mentor asked him what he wanted to do with his life.

After months of doing nothing and living off what he earned from Tisoy, Nonoy asked him if he had plans of finding work.

Gloria said yes, except that, again, he did not know what to do.

One night, Nonoy pointed him to a group at the next table, which was looking for a writer.

The group was from the Philippine Advertising Counselors Inc., a big advertising agency at the time with accounts like San Miguel.

WITH some of his fraternity "brods"

At first, he was asked to do copy. He handed it in, but it did not impress the guy tasked to interview him.

But PAC gave him a second chance, because he was highly recommended by Nonoy.

This time, they asked him to do a storyboard—dialogues for a commercials.

He did well, and he was hired.

That started the 12-year career with PAC as writer/ producer.

In his later years with PAC, he was helping Vic del Rosario with Viva.

Gloria recalls Sharon Cuneta, whom PAC used in a Royal Tru-Orange commercial.

She did the movie "Dear Heart" with Gabby Concepcion soon after the commercial was aired.

GLORIA during his college graduation

He recalls telling Del Rosario to watch out for Sharon Cuneta as she would become a big star.

Getting bored

Despite his enviable stint in advertising, it was not long before Tony got bored.

He asked permission to study for a while, so he went to the US and took up special courses on film and advertising at the Parsons School of Designs in New York.

What he saw there changed his mindset and vision. He came back to the Philippines bent on shifting careers.

"At that time in the Philippines, businesses were owned by businessmen. In the US, it was the creatives—directors, writers who became businessmen," he says.

He decided to be one of those creatives, and it took him six months to turn his vision into reality.

He told PAC of his decision and he stayed on until a replacement was found.

But he started his business at the worst time to do so—1983. The country was in an economic crisis, with interest rates shooting to over 50 percent.

He nevertheless put up TVC Inc., which made television commercials.

Although TVC was struggling, it managed to survive the first two years.

Tony eventually bought out his partner and he changed the name to Unitel Video.

His new investors were his two sisters. His mother died when he was 40. His father never saw him start his business.

From a one-room affair in a warehouse in Makati, Unitel now occupies the entire warehouse.

To this day, however, Tony has distaste for numbers. He says he runs his business by listening to his instincts.

He has created a holding company—Unitel Studios which has Unitel Production and Unitel Pictures. Tony has about 70 people under him. He also has Optima Digital, a post production house, whose clients include PLDT, San Miguel Corp., Procter & Gamble, Unilever, Globe, Smart.

He also has Pictureworks, a firm engaged in the conceptualization and production of corporate audio-visual productions, video documentaries, and other corporate multi-media requirements.

Tony is much older than many of the people in the industry. But he says he is not antagonized by age, nor ideas of the youth.

He is not afraid of anything, (except women, he jokes. He is not yet married), not even change. He even welcomes it.

Although he did very well in writing, he says, there are many more who are better at it.

But there are few, like him, who buy the stories of the good writers.

He is set to come up with a new film written by a Carlos Palanca awardee—Santa Santita to be released by Unitel Pictures International.

He advertises Filipino films in international publications and some of these are set to be shown in cinemas worldwide.

Tony says he has a lot of ideas but sometimes, it can take him five years to implement them.

His ideas come during long flights and he has a small notebook where he jots down his new concepts.

He still goes after that next big idea, even if one look at his warehouse and all its equipment would show that he has already come so far.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Creating sweet dreams with lola's cocoa recipe

By Joey G. Alarilla
INQ7.net

FROM A family recipe that has been popular in the homes of the privileged few since pre-war, a young entrepreneur is now bringing a unique take on the traditional Spanish hot chocolate to Filipinos throughout the Philippines and perhaps even the rest of the world.

Nana Meng's Kitchen, the food specialty store that former GMA newscaster Margaux Salcedo set up last year, offers Nana Meng's Original Tsokolate Filipino as its main product. Apart from the hot chocolate, however, Nana Meng's Kitchen offers other traditional Filipino fare, including chicharon especial, coco syrup, suman malagkit and puto especial.

Nana Meng is Margaux's grandmother, an 88-year-old culinary expert who grew up in the aristocratic kitchen of pre-war Bulacan, learning and refining the secrets of traditional Bulacan dishes and delicacies. The first thing that strikes the observer is that the cocoa does not come in the traditional tablet form (tablea) or in powder form of mass-produced instant chocolate drinks. Instead, Nana Meng's Original Tsokolate Filipino is a creamy chocolate paste inside a jar.

Salcedo even shared that when she met the international chocolate czar Max Brenner during his visit to the Philippines last year, he was shocked by Nana Meng's version of hot chocolate.

"Even he was surprised that we Filipinos make tsokolate straight from cacao. It's from cacao *talaga*. Because with them, they already mix it, and usually they have it in big blocks which they then crush into powder. He'd never even heard of it in a creamy paste form. So he was amused by it," she says.

According to her, it was only last year that she decided to commercialize the cocoa.

"I was just bored. I had nothing to do before I left for the States.

It was such a hit, it actually funded my US trip," she says.

In fact, since exhibiting the jars of Nana Meng's Original Tsokolate Filipino in various bazaars here last year and bringing samples with her to the US, the product has generated so many inquiries and won the hearts of a number of customers that Salcedo extended her supposed one-month vacation in the Philippines that started last August. She has been based in New York since January.

NANA Meng grew up in the aristocratic kitchen of pre-war Bulacan, learning and refining the secrets of traditional dishes and delicacies.

To demonstrate how easy it is to prepare Nana Meng's Original Tsokolate Filipino, Salcedo scooped out some chocolate paste from the jar into a small bowl, and then added boiling water and evaporated milk to the mix. As the aroma of cacao filled the air, she poured the concoction into the antique chocolatera or pitcher pot that she always brings with her for such demonstrations. She then proceeded to whisk the mixture into frothy perfection using a batirol (also called a batidor), a wooden stirrer that you twist with the palms of your hands and could consider the predecessor of the modern blender.

As Salcedo was quick to point out, Nana Meng's Original Tsokolate Filipino is neither the thick chocolate syrup or tsokolate-eh that the Spanish friars and the affluent families of Intramuros preferred (and could afford), nor the indio's watered-down tsokolate-ah or poor man's chocolate drink, for those who remember their Rizal. Moreover, because it comes in a chocolate paste form and is easier to dissolve, no chunky sediments are left in your cup, unlike the case when you use a tablea.

Salcedo notes that the hot chocolate served in some Spanish

UNLIKE most cocoa drinks which come in tablet or powder forms, Nana Meng's comes in a paste.

Salcedo says she has decided to stay in the Philippines indefinitely to promote the product.

"*Sayang naman*," she explains, saying she wants to take advantage of the Christmas season and showcase Nana Meng's Original Tsokolate Filipino in as many bazaars as possible.

And even as she enjoys doing something she really loves in partnership with her lola, Salcedo is also serious in her efforts to realize her immediate goal: that come noche buena, Nana Meng's Original Tsokolate Filipino will be served on the table of every Filipino home.

Nana Meng's Kitchen has branches at 127 J.P. Rizal corner Nicolas Streets, Poblacion, Sta. Maria, Bulacan and G/F 9667 Pililia Street, Makati City. For more information, contact Tel. No. +63 2 890 9562, Mobile Nos. +63927 533 0953 and +63917 833 9539, and Fax No. +63 2 2470814.

(E-mail the author at joeyalarilla@gmail.com)

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US retailers brace for flat-screen TV price war

NEW YORK—As more and more consumers consider switching to digital television sets this holiday season, US retailers are cutting flat-panel TV prices to help them make up their minds.

In fact, competition for this promising market could turn into an all-out price war.

Even though rising interest rates and soaring gas prices have caused concern that Americans will curtail their shopping, electronics retailers expect advanced televisions to be among the fastest-selling home entertainment products this Christmas.

Digital sets, mainly with flat-panel plasma or liquid-crystal display screens, have won admiration for their superior picture and sound as well as for their ultra-slim size.

The main sales obstacle has been their price tag. The cost of many new high-end models is 10 that of a boxy conventional TV.

To spur purchases, analysts said retailers will probably resort to aggressive markdowns. At the same time, manufacturers have been ramping up supply, which could further lead to lower prices at the cash register.

Wal-Mart Stores Inc., the world's top retailer, is already jockeying for a slice of the expected windfall from the shift toward digital television.

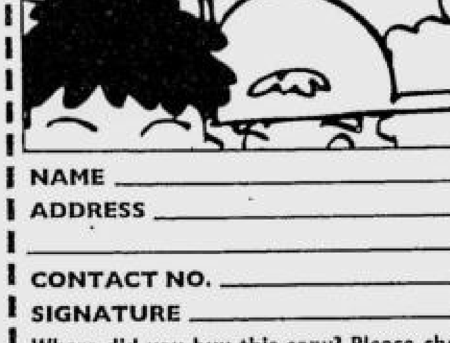
It has begun featuring a wide range of cut-priced flat-panel TVs—including its in-house ILO brand—among its online pre-Christmas promotions.

As with the DVD players, Wal-Mart is trying to hasten mass-market adoption of flat-panel TVs, a technology that so far appears more geared to specialty chains that are experts at selling complex products.

In August, the average price for a 42-inch high definition plasma TV was about $4,038, according to NPD Group. By contrast, Wal-Mart's Web site is promoting a similar television at $2,994.

But the number of households with flat-panel TVs is still below 10 percent, so industry observers say most potential buyers are still tech-savvy "early adopters" who base their preferences on brand quality and product features rather than just price.

Reuters



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Deadline of Entries:
Monthly Draws: October 17 and Nov. 17, 2004
Grand Draw: Dec. 14, 2004
Draw Dates:
Monthly Draw: October 22 and Nov. 22, 2004
Grand Draw: Dec. 21, 2004
See posters and print ads for details.
Per DTI Permit No. 2147, series of 2004
Drop in drop boxes located at Ayala and Robinson's cinema lobbies, and all LBC and Netopia branches. You may also mail entries to: Guyito Wild Hunt, PDI Bldg., corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Chino Roces Ave., Makati City

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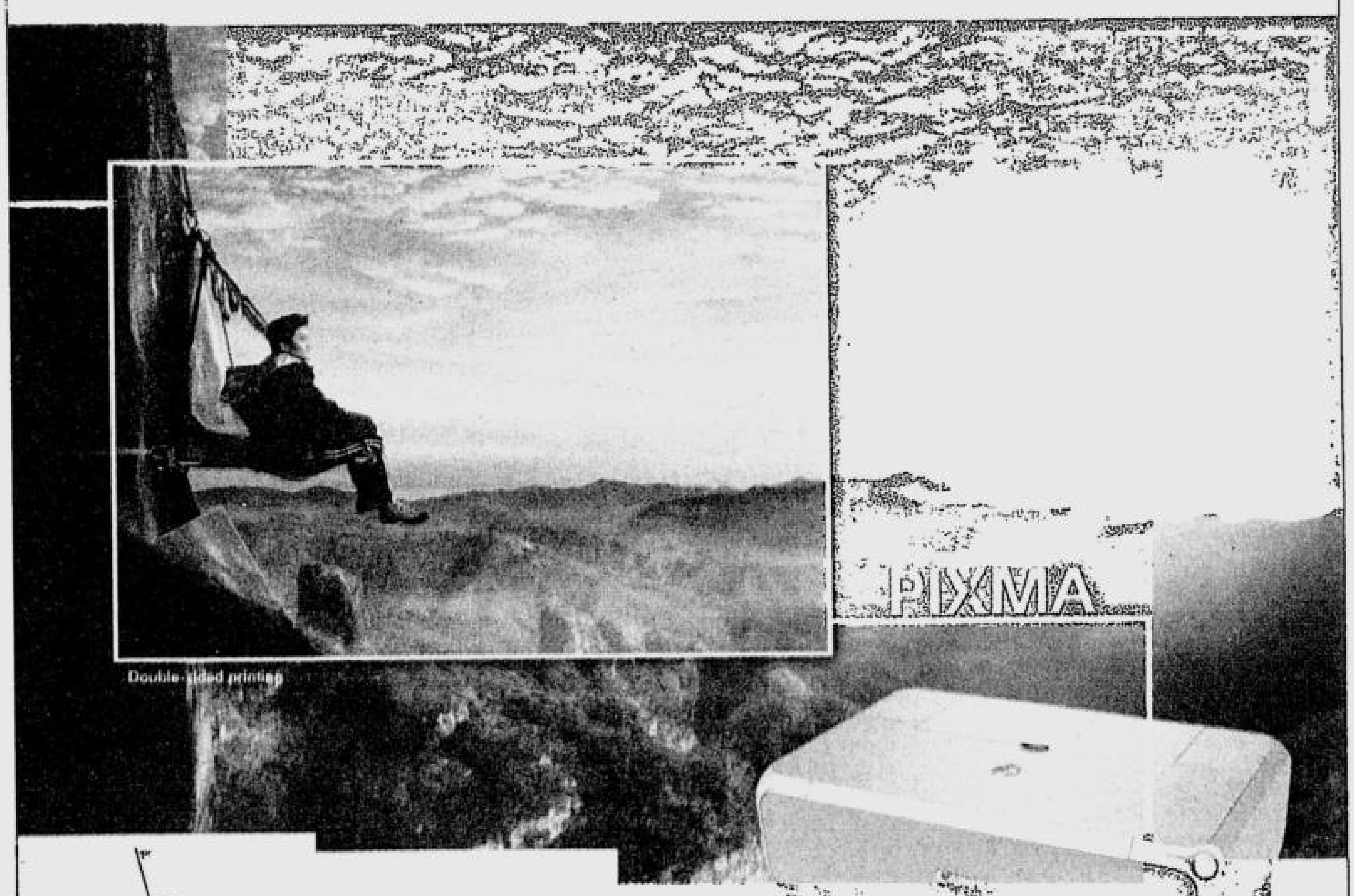

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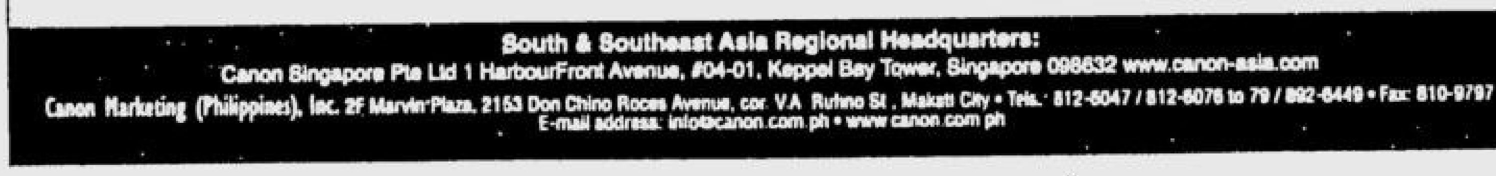

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- 6-colour printing with individual ink tanks

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E-mail address: info@canon.com.ph • www.canon.com.ph

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

People, Events & Products

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2004

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aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Aries Espinosa

Reviving the spirit at Caliraya

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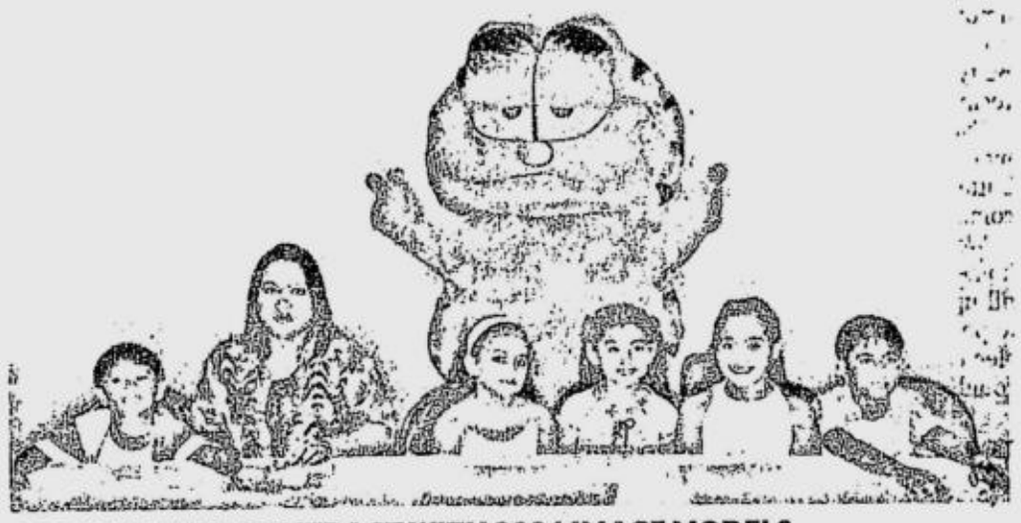


GARFIELD INKS CONTRACT WITH 2004 IMAGE MODELS

Canary Enterprises Inc, manufacturer of Garfield garments for kids under license with Paws Inc, inked a contract with five kids namely (from right) Miguel Aguila, Mary Anne Dimalanta, Gemmae Custodio, Cristine Barchini and JJ Zamora as its image models and endorsers for 2004. The kids were chosen for their talents, looks and intelligence, will represent Garfield in all events and promotional activities. Apt for boys and girls between three to ten years old, Garfield garments are available at all leading department stores nationwide. Also in photo are Garfield mascot and Garfield head designer, Luming Pantig (second from left).

PILIPINAS MAKRO AND UNILEVER JOINTLY LAUNCH THE MAKRO SUKI CORNER

The Makro Suki Corner was established to provide Makro customers with solutions to help grow their businesses. Solutions include the top sellers and new products to carry in their stores, the ideal merchandising look, exciting promotions, and a customer relations center to help answer Makro customers' business concerns. Pictured here are representatives from both Makro and Unilever. The Makro Suki Corner is located in Makro's flagship store in Sucat.

Coleman Powermate launches 24/7 service hotline

COLEMAN Powermate boosts its customer care program by introducing the country's first dedicated hotline in the generator industry. By dialing the Service Hotline (02) 411-3777, customers can now avail of immediate professional assistance and technical support to help their generators run at peak efficiency. Service inquiries are instantly attended to on the phone or referred directly to the nearest service center in the area according to the nature of support needed. With a guaranteed dispatch time in Metro Manila of two hours during office hours, and four hours on weekends and off-hours, clients can now count on efficient and customer-friendly service at any time. This innovation is powered by Maintenance Technologies and Services Corporation, an on-site preventive maintenance provider with a proven track record. Coleman Powermate also provides a 1-year warranty on parts and labor as part of its integrated approach to customer service.

Hot couture, hotel cocktails, and more in Astor

FOR a unique Hallow's Eve celebration, go 'Queenie Halloween' at the Astor Hotel-Makati's Las Ventas Room on Oct. 29, Friday at 6:30 p.m. The event, dubbed by the organizers as a mad, mad'mix of "Trick, Treat, Trends," features a 45-minute fashion showcase of lingerie and swimsuit, to be followed by the judging among participating guests for Spooky King and Queen of the Night, with a special prize for the Halloweirdest costume. Revelers are asked to come in their most unique getup. Corporate types are encouraged to be in their regal best, Victorian or Edgar Allan Poe-decadent, to qualify for nocturnal King or Queen

The ramp show-costume contest-dance party is a joint production of Astor Hotel, the Makati Tourism Foundation Inc., and Guru Productions, in cooperation with the Philippine Academy of Fashion Designers (PAFD). Cocktail buffet will be served at 7 p.m. The sexy fantasy fashion show commences at 9 p.m. Door prizes, such as gift certificates, await lucky raffle-draw winners

Guests can avail of Astor's special overnight package of P2,000 net with buffet breakfast for two. The Halloween room promo runs from Oct. 29 to Nov. 1.

The Astor Hotel, a managed property of Genesis Hotels & Resorts Corporation, is located at 7835 Eduque Street corner Makati Avenue. For inquiries, you may dial 750-7564 to 66 or 890-3878.

BITS Clips

'Alay at Parangal'

THE VERY first "Alay at Parangal Sa Dubhlstang Pilipino Komiks" is a joint effort of the Katipunan ng Dubhlstang Pilipino, the Sining Lunduyan, Huwarang Akbayan ng Nagkakaisang Dibuhista sa Pilipinas, the Philippine Nature Artist (Phinta), the Lakeshore Artist Foundation, the Sikat Artist Group under the lead banner of the Pacheco ArtReach Program. This year's celebration highlights an art form that permeated the Filipino psyche and has become an integral part of the Filipino culture: the comics. The awarding body centers its focus on Francisco Coching, the forerunner of the Pilipino komiks, who has set the standard of creative writing and the fine art of drawing combined. The program is set at 9 a.m. today at the U-gong Park, Morong Rizal.

Easy English seminar

CORBAN Daycare and Tutorial Center will hold an Easy English seminar today, from 2 to 5 p.m. The seminar will be held for 10 consecutive Sundays, totaling 30 hours. It will focus on English conversation, grammar, vocabulary building and pronunciation. Total cost is P3,500 inclusive of materials. Interested parties may call 842-6665/809-3050 and 0917-629-7718.

Upsilon Phi Sigma grand reunion

THE MUNTINLUPA City Council of Chapters and Alúmni Association Upsilon Mu Chapter will hold the 1st Grand Reunion of Upsilon Phi Sigma, to be held at the La Concordia Resort, Pututan, Muntinlupa City today, from 4 p.m. to 12 midnight. Registration starts at 3 p.m., fee is P50. For more information, contact Dennis Lorono (council chair, UPS Muntinlupa City Council of Chapters and Alumni Association) at 0927-4725309 or 543-0769 or Yul Retuta-UPS Chancellor at 809-7837/0920-8173319.

Ms Earth at Burgoo

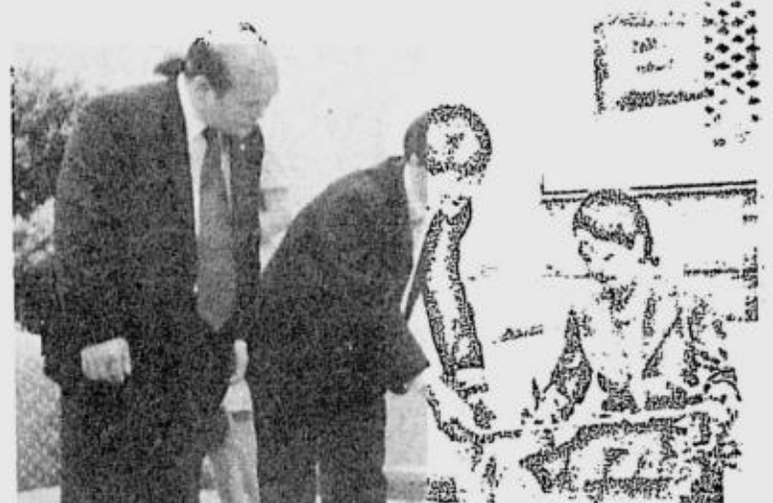
BURGOO American Bar and Restaurant played host to the lovely Ms Earth candidates when they visited the Powerplant Mall in Rockwell Center Makati City. This is part of their stint for the coming Ms Earth pageant today. Burgoo has branches at the 2nd level of the Podium. Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City and at 310 Tomas Morato Extension, South Triangle, Diliman Quezon City. It is open from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., seven days a week. For inquiries and reservation, call 898-1815, 687-5254 and 927-7424.

Festival Supermall events

FESTIVAL Supermall just turned up the Christmas spirit. Today, the Expo Trade and Music Hall on the 4th level will be filled with the school crowd as Festival Supermall launches its Parol "Pasko Na Naman" competition. This interschool Christmas Lantern-Making Competition is open to all elementary and high schools in Muntinlupa, Las Piñas and San Pedro Laguna, and will be formally launched today at 1 p.m. On Oct. 31, the mall stages its Annual Halloween Costume Contest from 2 p.m. onwards and gives out candy galore in their mallwide trick or treating. All of this and so much more. Visit Festival Supermall in Filinvest Corporate City Alabang. Mall hours are from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. For inquiries, call 850-3514 or visit www.festivalsupermall.com.

Sun Cellular's 24/7 Call and Text Unlimited

SUN Cellular offers its new service - 24/7 Call and Text Unlimited. Open to both postpaid and prepaid subscribers, the promo lets you make voice calls and send messages to anyone in the Sun Cellular network. Postpaid subscribers can enjoy this service by simply signing up or calling the hotline number and paying an additional P250 to your monthly service fee. For prepaid subscribers, just load up the service via the 24/7 Call and Text Unlimited call cards, e-pins or via SMS. There are two denomination cards: P100 with 10-day expiry and P250 with 30-day expiry. Subscribe from Oct. 1 to 31 and be the first new subscribers to enjoy up to 30 days of free trial. For more information, visit the website at www.suncellular.com.ph or call its 24-hour hotline at 395-8000.

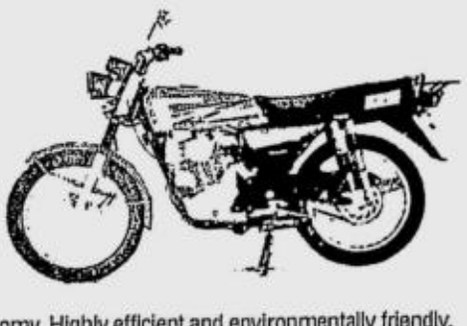


PRESIDENT ARROYO MEETS TCL OFFICIALS

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo met senior executive vice president of TCL Corp Yuan Xincheng and president of TCL Overseas SBU Yi Chunyu in a friendly atmosphere in Beijing Kerry Center on Sept. 3. During the meeting Xincheng said TCL had already considered Philippines to be one of its color TV production bases exporting to America because of its location. TCL Corp set up a local branch in Philippines in the year 2000. Through recent years of development, TCL has become a famous brand in the Philippine market. Chunyu said TCL is planning to add two more production lines to commence operation this October. At the end of the meeting, both sides expressed best wishes for TCL's future in the Philippines. The Secretary of Trade and Industry Department of Philippines, Cesar V. Purisima, and the Philippine ambassador in P.R. China Willy C Gaa also attended the meeting.

ProductFiles

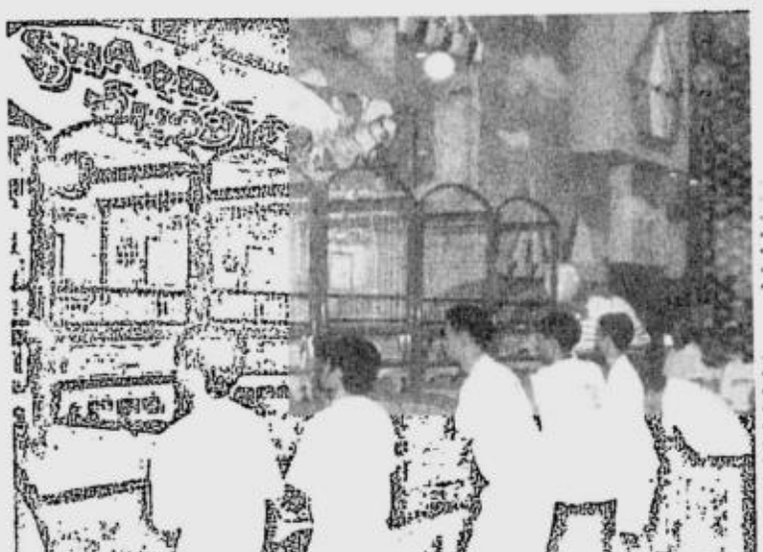
Kawasaki Barako 175



KAWASAKI Barako 175 is a reliable and durable 175cc, air-cooled, 4-stroke, single cylinder, SHOC engine that offers greater power and better fuel economy. Highly efficient and environmentally friendly. Barako 175 has a new sportier look tail lamp with added reflector under that enhances its visibility for safe driving. It has a vibration damper that absorbs vibrations of any road conditions. With two starting methods available, kick and electric (for BC175B only) equipped with an "advancer" giving you a surprisingly convenient quick and reliable starting. Every 1 unit purchased of Kawasaki Barako 175 will entitle the customer to avail of 1 Kawasaki Barako 175 wrist watch limited edition. Promo offered while supply last. Visit your nearest Kawasaki authorized dealers or call the head office at 842-3140 to 43.

Refreshing UCC Japanese fruit sodas

QUENCH your thirst with these Japanese fruit sodas you can find only at UCC. Choose from the effervescent blend of Shibori-No Lemon, Tsubi Kira Wite Grape, Shibori-no Apple or citrus mix Okinawa No Kaori. Visit UCC Coffee in Tomas Morato, Quezon City; Connecticut St., Greenhills; The Podium, Ortigas Center; Forbes Town Center, Taguig; and at The Paseo Center, Makati.



2004 SHARPSHOOTER BASKETBALL CHALLENGE

World's of Fun recently held the 2004 Sharpshooter Basketball Challenge Competition Grand Finals at Great World's of Fun, Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall. The said event is the culmination of elimination round and regional finals pitting the most skilled players on their Sharpshooter machines. Photo shows some of the finalists gunning for the title of the 2004 Sharpshooter Grand Champion. This event was also made possible because of the following sponsors: Hanford, Chiz Curls, Mr. Chips, Roller Coaster, Lipovitan, Aqua Blue and Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall.

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E-mail: pr_pep@inquirer.com.ph
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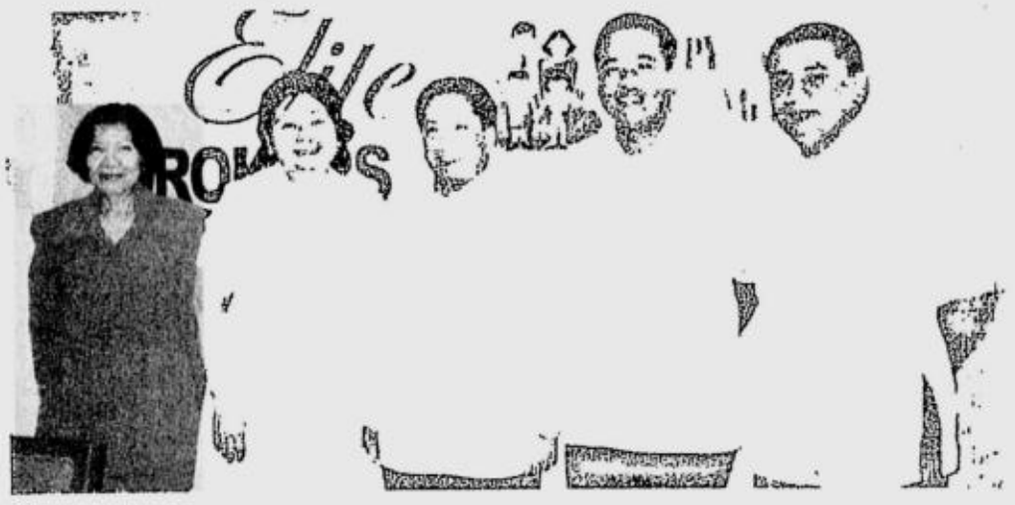

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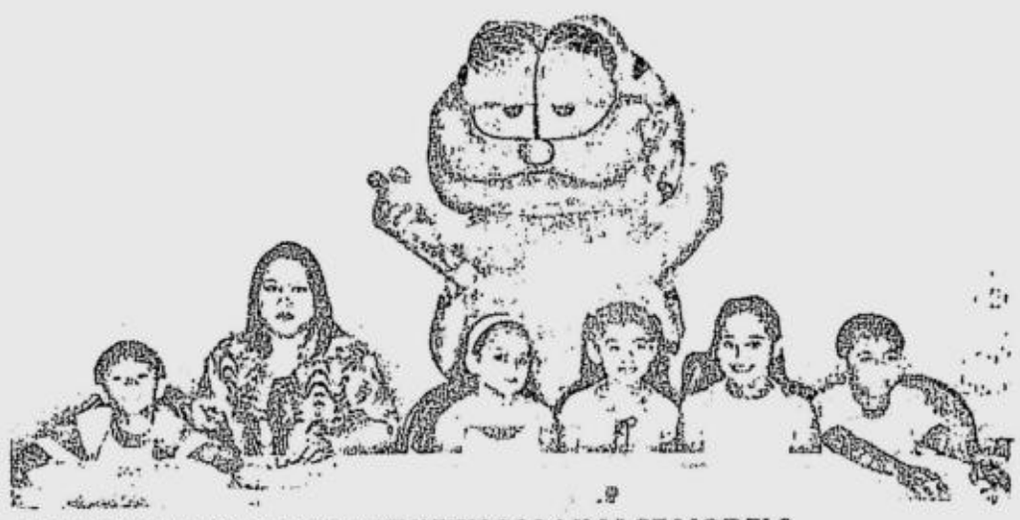
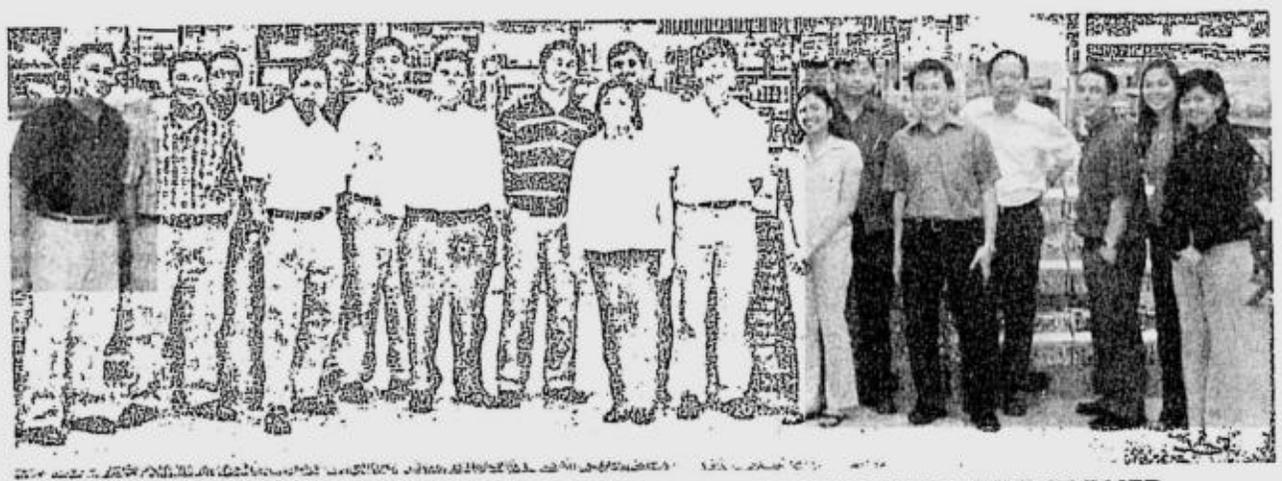


GARFIELD INKS CONTRACT WITH 2004 IMAGE MODELS

Canary Enterprises Inc, manufacturer of Garfield garments for kids under license with Paws Inc, inked a contract with five kids namely (from right) Miguel Aguila, Mary Anne Dimalanta, Gemmae Custodio, Cristine Barchini and JJ Zamora as its image models and endorsers for 2004. The kids were chosen for their talents, looks and intelligence, will represent Garfield in all events and promotional activities. Apt for boys and girls between three to ten years old, Garfield garments are available at all leading department stores nationwide. Also in photo are Garfield mascot and Garfield head designer, Luming Pantig (second from left).



PILIPINAS MAKRO AND UNILEVER JOINTLY LAUNCH THE MAKRO SUKI CORNER

The Makro Suki Corner was established to provide Makro customers with solutions to help grow their businesses. Solutions include the top sellers and new products to carry in their stores, the ideal merchandising look, exciting promotions, and a customer relations center to help answer Makro customers' business concerns. Pictured here are representatives from both Makro and Unilever. The Makro Suki Corner is located in Makro's flagship store in Sucat.

Coleman Powermate launches 24/7 service hotline

COLEMAN Powermate boosts its customer care program by introducing the country's first dedicated hotline in the generator industry. By dialing the Service Hotline (02) 411-3777, customers can now avail of immediate professional assistance and technical support to help their generators run at peak efficiency. Service inquiries are instantly attended to on the phone or referred directly to the nearest service center in the area according to the nature of support needed. With a guaranteed dispatch time in Metro Manila of two hours during office hours, and four hours on weekends and off-hours, clients can now count on efficient and customer-friendly service at any time. This innovation is powered by Maintenance Technologies and Services Corporation, an on-site preventive maintenance provider with a proven track record. Coleman Powermate also provides a 1-year warranty on parts and labor as part of its integrated approach to customer service.

Hot couture, hotel cocktails, and more in Astor

FOR a unique Hallow's Eve celebration, go 'Queenie Halloween' at the Astor Hotel-Makati's Las Ventas Room on Oct. 29, Friday at 6:30 p.m. The event, dubbed by the organizers as a mad, mad'mix of "Trick, Treat, Trends," features a-45-minute fashion showcase of lingerie and swimsuit, to be followed by the judging among participating guests for Spooky King and Queen of the Night, with a special prize for the Halloweirdest costume. Revelers are asked to come in their most unique get-up. Corporate types are encouraged to be in their regal best, Victorian or Edgar Allan Poe-decadent, to qualify for nocturnal King or Queen

The ramp show-costume contest-dance party is a joint production of Astor Hotel, the Makati Tourism Foundation Inc., and Guru Productions, in cooperation with the Philippine Academy of Fashion Designers (PAFD). Cocktail buffet will be served at 7 p.m. The sexy fantasy fashion show commences at 9 p.m. Door prizes, such as gift certificates, await lucky raffle-draw winners

Guests can avail of Astor's special overnight package of P2,000 net with buffet breakfast for two. The Halloween room promo runs from Oct. 29 to Nov. 1.

The Astor Hotel, a managed property of Genesis Hotels & Resorts Corporation, is located at 7835 Eduque Street corner Makati Avenue. For inquiries, you may dial 750-7564 to 66 or 890-3878.

BITS Clips

'Alay at Parangal'

THE VERY first "Alay at Parangal Sa Dubhistang Pilipino Komiks" is a joint effort of the Katipunan ng Dubhistang Pilipino, the Sining Lunduyan, Huwarang Akbayan ng Nagkakaisang Dibuhista sa Pilipinas, the Philippine Nature Artist (Phinta), the Lakeshore Artist Foundation, the Sikat Artist Group under the lead banner of the Pacheco ArtReach Program. This year's celebration highlights an art form that permeated the Filipino psyche and has become an integral part of the Filipino culture: the comics. The awarding body centers its focus on Francisco Coching, the forerunner of the Pilipino komiks, who has set the standard of creative writing and the fine art of drawing combined. The program is set at 9 a.m. today at the U-gong Park, Morong Rizal.

Easy English seminar

CORBAN Daycare and Tutorial Center will hold an Easy English seminar today, from 2 to 5 p.m. The seminar will be held for 10 consecutive Sundays, totaling 30 hours. It will focus on English conversation, grammar, vocabulary building and pronunciation. Total cost is P3,500 inclusive of materials. Interested parties may call 842-6665/809-3050 and 0917-629-7718.

Upsilon Phi Sigma grand reunion

THE MUNTINLUPA City Council of Chapters and Alumni Association Upsilon Mu Chapter will hold the 1st Grand Reunion of Upsilon Phi Sigma, to be held at the La Concordia Resort, Pututan, Muntinlupa City today, from 4 p.m. to 12 midnight. Registration starts at 3 p.m., fee is P50. For more information, contact Dennis Lorono (council chair, UPS Muntinlupa City Council of Chapters and Alumni Association) at 0927-4725309 or 543-0769 or Yul Retuta-UPS Chancellor at 809-7837/0920-8173319.

Ms Earth at Burgoo

BURGOO American Bar and Restaurant played host to the lovely Ms Earth candidates when they visited the Powerplant Mall in Rockwell Center Makati City. This is part of their stint for the coming Ms Earth pageant today. Burgoo has branches at the 2nd level of the Podium, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City and at 310 Tomas Morato Extension, South Triangle, Diliman Quezon City. It is open from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., seven days a week. For inquiries and reservation, call 898-1815, 687-5254 and 927-7424.

Festival Supermall events

FESTIVAL Supermall just turned up the Christmas spirit. Today, the Expo Trade and Music Hall on the 4th level will be filled with the school crowd as Festival Supermall launches its Parol "Pasko Na Naman" competition. This interschool Christmas Lantern-Making Competition is open to all elementary and high schools in Muntinlupa, Las Piñas and San Pedro Laguna, and will be formally launched today at 1 p.m. On Oct. 31, the mall stages its Annual Halloween Costume Contest from 2 p.m. onwards and gives out candy galore in their mallwide trick or treating. All of this and so much more. Visit Festival Supermall in Filinvest Corporate City Alabang. Mall hours are from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. For inquiries, call 850-3514 or visit www.festivalsupermall.com.

Sun Cellular's 24/7 Call and Text Unlimited

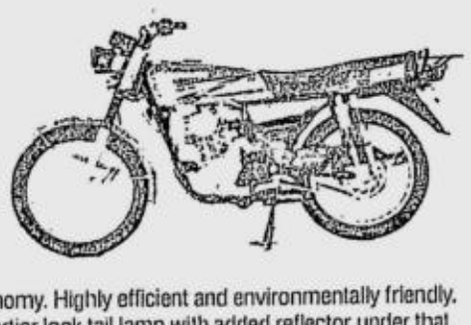
SUN Cellular offers its new service - 24/7 Call and Text Unlimited. Open to both postpaid and prepaid subscribers, the promo lets you make voice calls and send messages to anyone in the Sun Cellular network. Postpaid subscribers can enjoy this service by simply signing up or calling the hotline number and paying an additional P250 to your monthly service fee. For prepaid subscribers, just load up the service via the 24/7 Call and Text Unlimited call cards, e-pins or via SMS. There are two denomination cards: P100 with 10-day expiry and P250 with 30-day expiry. Subscribe from Oct. 1 to 31 and be the first new subscribers to enjoy up to 30 days of free trial. For more information, visit the website at www.suncellular.com.ph or call its 24-hour hotline at 395-8000

PRESIDENT ARROYO MEETS TCL OFFICIALS

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo met senior executive vice president of TCL Corp Yuan Xincheng and president of TCL Overseas SBU Yi Chunyu in a friendly atmosphere in Beijing Kerry Center on Sept. 3. During the meeting Xincheng said TCL had already considered Philippines to be one of its color TV production bases exporting to America because of its location. TCL Corp set up a local branch in Philippines in the year 2000. Through recent years of development, TCL has become a famous brand in the Philippine market. Chunyu said TCL is planning to add two more production lines to commence operation this October. At the end of the meeting, both sides expressed best wishes for TCL's future in the Philippines. The Secretary of Trade and Industry Department of Philippines, Cesar V. Purisima, and the Philippine ambassador in P.R. China Willy C Gaa also attended the meeting.

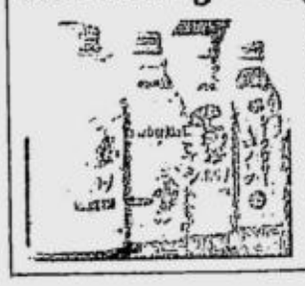
ProductFILES

Kawasaki Barako 175



KAWASAKI Barako 175 is a reliable and durable 175cc, air-cooled, 4-stroke, single cylinder, SHOC engine that offers greater power and better fuel economy. Highly efficient and environmentally friendly. Barako 175 has a new sportier look tail lamp with added reflector under that enhances its visibility for safe driving. It has a vibration damper that absorbs vibrations of any road conditions. With two starting methods available, kick and electric (for BC175B only) equipped with an "advancer" giving you a surprisingly convenient quick and reliable starting. Every 1 unit purchased of Kawasaki Barako 175 will entitle the customer to avail of 1 Kawasaki Barako 175 wrist watch limited edition. Promo offered while supply last. Visit your nearest Kawasaki authorized dealers or call the head office at 842-3140 to 43.

Refreshing UCC Japanese fruit sodas



QUENCH your thirst with these Japanese fruit sodas you can find only at UCC. Choose from the effervescent blend of Shibori-No Lemon, Tsubi Kira Wite Grape, Shibori-no Apple or citrus mix Okinawa No Kaori. Visit UCC Coffee in Tomas Morato, Quezon City; Connecticut St., Greenhills; The Podium, Ortigas Center; Forbes Town Center, Taguig; and at The Paseo Center, Makati.

2004 SHARPSHOOTER BASKETBALL CHALLENGE

World's of Fun recently held the 2004 Sharpshooter Basketball Challenge Competition Grand Finals at Great World's of Fun, Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall. The said event is the culmination of elimination round and regional finals pitting the most skilled players on their Sharpshooter machines Photo shows some of the finalists gunning for the title of the 2004 Sharpshooter Grand Champion. This event was also made possible because of the following sponsors Hanford, Chiz Curls, Mr. Chips, Roller Coaster, Lipovitan, Aqua Blue and Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

A door closed but window for brownies opened

By Eufemia C. Estrada
Contributor

WHEN you consider that Pampanga is food country, you wonder how one more food business can survive.

Yet this is exactly what Pines Serrano of Guaga, Pampanga, has done.

For 18 years from 1981 to 1999, she was, together with her sister Betty, employed at Killion Merchandising in Quiapo, in charge of releasing checks to suppliers.

The eighth of 12 children of a carpenter, she was and still is very fond of experimenting with recipes. And because she is very fond of brownies she thought she'd specialize in them should she ever go into business. She started experimenting with a brownie recipe a Killion customer had given her. She studied the difference in texture that creaming the butter/shortening or melting it would bring. She tried small changes in the inclusion or exclusion of ingredients and their amounts. After many trials and errors, by "plus and minuses" as Betty says, she had perfected the recipe to her satisfaction.

Even while she was experimenting, like for example, her butterscotch, orders were already coming in.

Weekends, Pines would rush home to Siran to do her baking to fill up the orders that continued to pour in. She was using a small electric Technogas oven that could only accommodate two aluminum trays which took an hour to bake. She started with aluminum foil trays to do away with the cleanup she would have to do if she used aluminum trays. But later she had to shift to the latter anyway because of the volume of orders.

It reached a point where the Serrano girls felt their brownie sideline was interfering with their jobs. Often the phone calls were for brownie orders. In 1999 they tendered their resignation but were prevailed upon by the Sys of Killion to stay for a few more months. In August of the same year, they finally had to leave. After 19 years for Betty and 18 for Pines. "*Doon na pumuti ang buhok ko*," as Betty colorfully puts it. "*Walang naipon*." Betty, however, emerged with P200,000 in savings, Pines with P140,000.

In 1997, their father's petition for them to become US immigrants would have been approved but it was too late. Their father passed away in 1996 after 10 years of waiting. But as Betty said, when this door closed, God opened a window—their brownie baking. Betty is more proficient in cooking but learned to love baking because of Pines. She works alongside Pines with three commercial ovens in San Francisco del Monte in Quezon City.

"*Maganda ang salubong*," Pines reminisces. For capital the Serrano girls used their profits from the sales of Festival fruit cakes they did for Killion customers when they were employed there.

PINES Serrano stands beside her first oven—a Tecnogas electric.

Before their retirement from Killion, they had no system in place. The year 1998 was filled with soap opera material. The customers would beg, cajole, cry, rage, to get their precious boxes of brownies. A customer who had just attended the Misa de Gallo came armed with pillows, his family ready to catch up on their sleep while waiting for their orders to be filled, hot and fresh from the oven.

Pines' household had no more privacy. Some customers would even invade the bedrooms to store their boxes of brownies where they could not be picked up by mistake by other eager customers. They just kept baking all day, all night and followed a first-come (reserved by phone or in person) first-served basis.

An orderly system was finally put in place when Pines and Betty went full time into their business.

Their staff has grown to 18 regular workers, swelling to more than 50 during peak seasons—Christmas, Holy Week, All Saints Day, when more staff are needed for the packaging. During the period leading to Christmas, they go on 24-hour shifts, with each shift working for six hours. This is also true of Easter when the only time the factory is closed is on Good Friday.

Customers come from Manila, Antipolo, Laguna, Olongapo, their barrio of Siran. The Serrano siblings have outlets in Angeles, Sta. Rita, Lubao in Pampanga, Gapan in Nueva Ecija and of course along the highway in Guagua. One sister oversees the operations. Truly it has become a family business. Pines products include, aside from the brownies, Yummies, Revel Bars, Butterscotch, Cashew Tarts, Food for the Gods, Carrot Cake, and Black Forest.

WATCH out for this sign along Floridablanca.

During the slack season, daily production in SFDM is about 100 boxes, 200-300 boxes in Siran. This rises to 3,000 boxes of 24 pieces each, when the 24-hour baking shift starts Dec. 10 to Dec. 23 in both factories. By Dec. 19, there is often no more stock to put into the outlets.

Spurred by the success of their *kababayan*, other Siran residents have put up their own brownie businesses. There are now more than 25 such outlets in the barrio.

The secret of Pines Brownies success, as we see it, is her management of her staff. Having come from their ranks, she knows how to keep her staff happy. The regulars are stay-ins, enjoying hot meals prepared by their cook, free laundry with the use of a washing machine, with sleeping quarters on the second floor of the house.

During the slack period when they only bake up to 12 noon the staff can watch TV while chopping the cashew nuts by hand.

Pines relates the case of one employee who had been with her for less than a month and who suffered from a ruptured appendix. Pines shouldered her hospitalization expenses just the same. Even when she was still with Killion, Pines showed her compassionate side by preparing simple sandwiches for the suppliers' delivery crews during the peak season rush.

You are most probably familiar with those jeepney signs proclaiming "Katas ng Saudi."

Well, Katas ng Brownies includes three delivery vans, a family sedan, a renovated ancestral home, two concrete factories, 16 ovens, three electric mixers (though the staff can go manual when there's a brownout), a two-hectare farm in Floridablanca, vacations in the US to visit immigrant siblings, short tours of Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand.

The soft-spoken Pines has maintained friendly relations with the Sys of Killion and enjoys their full support. She gets her cocoa, walnuts, dates, flour, glucose, butter and shortening from them. The rest of her needs she gets from other suppliers. Her credit is good.

Villagers live on where they live

By Ronnie Lorejo
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

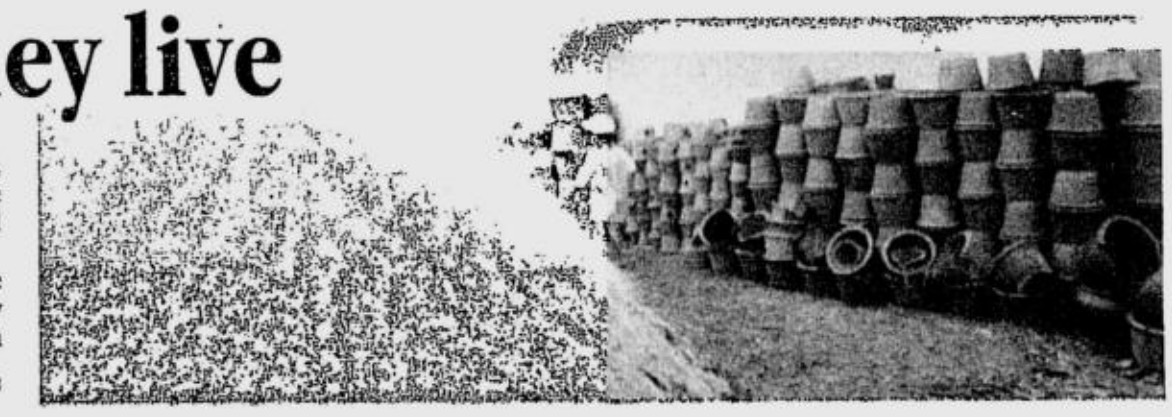
TIWI, Albay—For 56 years now, Severina Dacuno or Nana Vering, 68, of Barangay Putsan in this geothermal town has been converting their backyard soil into pots for sale, which has been their only means of livelihood.

"Since I was born, my life has actually revolved around the red clay where this house of ours stands," Nana Vering claims.

Now with seven grown-up children—the oldest being 47 years old and the youngest, 28—she still loves to mold the clay that has virtually molded her life.

"Aside from this small house of ours, pot making is actually the best inheritance I got from

VILLAGERS/ B8



Was it the chauffeur or the papaitan?

We've never figured it out really, what worked better in the end, but we're thankful anyway.

Mrs. Gwen Roces had always been accompanied by her husband to the bank. He'd open the door for her, see her through, explain what the forms were for, tell her where to sign. And she'd always be listening cheerfully, her pen flashing in compliance. She was glad, we guessed, to have someone sorting out all the forms and procedures for her.

But the day came when Mr. Roces, quite regrettably, passed away. And our account with his wife appeared doomed to follow in his footsteps as well.

Until we remembered that she had never, in all her years with us, come to the bank by herself. It was always an adventure she embarked upon with her husband. And something we couldn't expect her to do alone.

So we arranged for a driver to pick her up at her house and bring her over. Smiling awkwardly, she stepped into the car. And just as awkwardly, we stepped into the role long reserved for her husband.

Smile by smile, we navigated the course of her transactions with her. And told her that if she wanted, we could keep on doing the same thing for her every time she needed to visit the bank. Her smile was all the yes we needed.

We took her to lunch, too, that day. To a place that, to our knowledge, served the best papaitan in Manila (we had learned earlier that it was, strangely enough, her favorite dish). She talked about how she was coping with the loss of her husband, about how the house seemed too big now, about how helpful people had been to her. And how the papaitan fell somehow short of its billing.

We had the driver bring her back home and we heard nothing from Mrs. Roces for the next two weeks. And then she called, asking to be picked up. She had some deposits to make, she said. And a newly cooked pot full of what was truly, as we discovered, the best papaitan in Manila.

(If this doesn't sound like the kind of relationship you have with your bank, you may want to give us a try.)

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Member MEGALINK Member of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation. Maximum Deposit Insurance for Each Depositor P200,000 • Contact Call Center No. 870-8787 • Website: www.ibank.com.ph • The story told here is true and based on actual facts. Some details were slightly modified to protect the privacy and identities of the people involved

Finding that special someone is just 'a click away'

THEY say that nothing beats being single. You can have all the time you want, dress the way you like and be carefree about your outlook on life. Who cares anyway? You're single.

But there comes a point when being single is not an ideal (and envious) state. It comes when you start receiving wedding invitation from high school or college classmates, or getting a gift certificate for an intimate dinner for two. Being single now becomes a scary state when you get invited to become a ninong/ ninang of your barkadas' kids. Since most, if not all, the members of your barkada have a new "status" as moms or dads, suddenly you can't easily grab anyone to join you to watch a movie, bar hop or attend even a simple class reunion.

Since you were out of the dating scene for a long time, finding that "someone" seems an enormous task. Suddenly, you have a hard time deciding what to wear; you stutter when a seatmate asks your name; you face a blank wall when someone tries to start a conversation with you. There is nothing wrong with you; it's just that you have been with familiar people most of your life that's why meeting strangers seems awkward.

Thankfully, in this high-tech times, there are a lot of ways to find that "someone". And you don't even have to stand up or dress up. As they say, "it's just a click away."

Itzamatch.com is a website that contains the profiles of more than a thousand singles all over the world. Itzamatch.com lets you upload your photo and small info about yourself and with an average of a thousand hits daily, you can be sure that there are a lot of singles out there that will find you interesting. Itzamatch.com can also generate "matches" for you with regards to your preference on gender, age, profession and hobbies. In this way, you can start enlivening your "dating life".

Once you set your sight on someone, then you can start exchanging messages with him/her via e-mail or SMS. If everything turns out well, you can set that date where the two of you can meet. It is that easy. And when you meet, you will not be "shocked" with the way your partner looks and both of you will most likely not bore each other. If everything goes well after a few more dates and you feel that you are in "Cloud 9" every time you are with him/her, then you have found your perfect match.

So for singles who want to enter the dating scene again, log on to Itzamatch.com, you may find your perfect match there too.

AMCHAM EXPLORES BUSINESS POTENTIAL OF ANIMATION INDUSTRY

The Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) committee of the American Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (AmCham) brought to fore the business potential of the animation industry at the recent ICT luncheon meet at AmCham Hall, Corinthian Plaza in Makati City. Invited animation experts shared how it evolved into a billion-dollar industry over the past years with United States and Japan leading the trend. In photo are (from left): Precious Joy Lim and Christian Argos, segment managers of Segment Marketing Corporate Business Innove Communications; speaker Fred Kumetz, president of eData Services Philippines Inc; speaker Evelyn Abat, president of Medical Transcription Association of the Philippines; speaker Marlyn Montano, president of Animation Council of the Philippines Inc; and Donald Felbaum, chair of AmCham ICT committee and managing director of Optel Limited.

Citystate Bank launches Internet and Mobile (SMS) banking

TOWARDS a journey of Cashless and paperless transactions, Citystate bank takes pride in being one of the pioneers in the savings bank industry to implement the BancNet Mobile Phone banking service.

Jeffrey Tantiado, vice president ITD stated that "with Citystate Internet and mobile banking service, all your bank transactions can be done from anywhere without visiting the bank. It's banking when you want — anywhere and anytime. He stated further that "We understand that there are not enough hours in a day to accomplish everything that needs to be done, and Citystate Savings can assist in managing your finances wherever you are at whatever time you are available."

The bank offers multiple channels of banking solution through Internet or mobile banking or Short Messaging service (SMS) by giving the depositors options to pay their bills, reorder checks, transfer funds, reload prepaid credits, and do as much as shop online.

Publicly listed Citystate Savings Bank is a Filipino-Singaporean owned company, operated by a consortium which includes the Fortune Insurance Group, one of the country's leading insurance firms, and foreign investors in the Citystate Management Group Holdings Pte. Ltd of Singapore that manages insurance and real estate business organizations throughout Southeast Asia.

MR SOFTY IN SM ILOILO

Mr Softy is fastly spreading in major malls nationwide. Recently, another Mr Softy franchise has been formally awarded to entrepreneur Lovella Banzon . Located at SM Iloilo, the new Mr Softy franchise is expected to draw big market of ice cream lovers. Consumers patronize the product because it is BFAD-approved, has various flavors and servings to choose from, and is priced for as low as P6 per cone. For the franchisees, Mr Softy is a promising business opportunity because it is easy to manage with guaranteed monthly earnings of around P100,000 per month. Shown in photo during the formal franchise awarding are (from left) Mr Softy franchise service officer Ryan Baldelobar; Mr Softy Franchise director Vernon Perea; new franchisee Lovella Banzon; and Mr Softy franchise officer John Mabatan. For inquiries on franchising, call Vernon Perea at (02) 941-8163, (02) 934-8007, cel no. (0917) 8239989 or email mrsoftyphil@hotmail.com.

APC lauds SIM graduates

ASIA Pacific College's Strategic Information Management (SIM) Program recently presented its second batch of graduates at the closing ceremonies to cap the first module, the Graduate Certificate in Business Intelligence.

Seven graduates from various sectors in government and private entities enrolled in the 90-hour module. This initial module, the Business Intelligence Module, tackled courses in Social Dimension of Information, Management of Information Systems and Services, and Business Intelligence. It precedes the Knowledge Management Module, also a 9-unit program that will complete the courses to earn a Graduate Certificate in SIM.

The first batch of the SIM Graduate Certificate Program are now full-fledged Master in Information Management (MIM) students. The MIM graduate studies addresses the strong and increasing demand for IT and business professionals who are able to meet the challenging and evolving needs of organizations in the global economy.

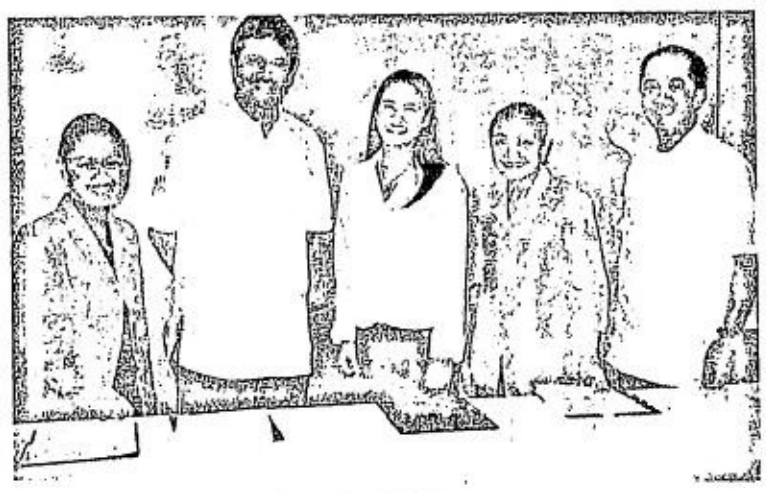
Interested individuals who are thinking of pursuing higher learning may get in touch with the Admissions and Marketing Department of APC at telephone numbers 852-9670 to 71 for more details.

BPI INTRODUCES EXPRESS LEARNING CENTER

BPI continues its tradition of leadership as it introduces the BPI Express Learning Center (ELC), the first of its kind in the banking industry. The concept behind the ELC is to teach existing, new and potential clients how to use BPI's electronic banking channels. These channels offer customers the convenience of anytime anywhere banking and allows them to do a wide array of banking transactions from their home or office. Clients who come to the ELC can learn online banking in one easy session and they can also be tutored in phonebanking. The ELC is situated in a mall hence it is very accessible to both office workers and students alike. The first ELC is right beside the Convenience Banking Center in Park Square 1 at Ayala Center, Makati City. Shown in photo during the inauguration of the first Express Learning Center in Park Square 1 are (from left): BPI vice-president Josephine Ocampo, Ayala Land manager CJ Jesena and BPI senior vice-president Lourdes Claravall.

STI CO-PRESENTS COLLEGE CALLS 2004

STI, the country's largest network of colleges, recently co presented the recently concluded 'College Calls 2004: The 3rd Exposition of Colleges and Universities' held at the Megatrade Hall 3 of SM Megamall. The event showcased various aspects of college life and provided high school students wide range of options to help them choose the right course and college after graduation. Photo shows Elbert de Guzman (center), STI's vice president together with some of the event organizer, during the ribbon cutting and formal opening of the exhibit. Looking on are high school students from Sta. Rosa College.



MARICEL LAXA FOR BIOGESIC

Unilab Consumer Health Group (ULCH) renews Maricel Laxa-Pangilinan as the product endorser for the Biogesic brand. Shown here with Maricel are (from left) Shaoi Aquino, product manager for Biogesic; Jun Vivar , VP of ULCH-Consumer Health Division; Angeli P. Valenciano, president of Manila Genesis Entertainment and Dino M. Laurena, VP/co-managing director of Harrison Communications, Inc.

TERIYAKI BOY OPENS BRANCH IN MARKET MARKET

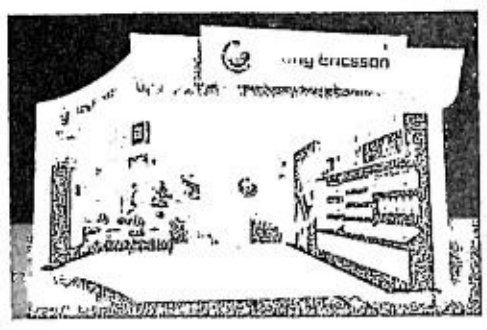
Residents in the vicinity of Bonifacio Global City can now enjoy Japanese food at affordable prices. Teriyaki Boy recently opened its seventh branch in Market Market, the newest shopping mall in the metropolis which is located in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig. Among those who were present to perform the ribbon cutting ceremony were, from left Rowena Tomeldan, VP for operations of Ayala Land; television personality Shaan Bermudez-Hizon; Bryan Tiu, president and CEO of Teriyaki Boy; and guest.

ProductFiles

A sanctuary of total relaxation

THE SURIYA Spa proudly offers health and beauty remedies that are based on entirely organic and natural ingredients used in a wide variety of treatment regimen comprising of body massage therapies, Asian traditional body spa, therapies by Pevonia Botanica, body treatments, facial, foot and hand treatments. Upon entering, its friendly concierge staff welcomes guests, answers queries and is open for consultation on which treatment may best suit clients. Prior to treatments, guests may also enjoy the luxurious feel of the invigorating steam and sauna and thereafter, a refreshing experience of its rainshowers. Drop by The Suriya Spa at 3/F Glorietta 3, Ayala Center to see the spa's impressive facilities and services. For reservations call 893-1818 to schedule your treatment at your most convenient time.

Sony Ericsson opens concept shop



SONY Ericsson throws open the doors to the latest and most stylish in mobile lifestyle products with the new Sony Ericsson Concept Shop in Digital Exchange, Level 3, Ayala Center in Makati. The new Sony Ericsson Concept Shop allows one to explore the features of the latest Sony Ericsson handsets and innovative accessories in a fun yet relaxed setting. Experience imaging, entertainment and mobile connectivity at its best from new models like the Sony Ericsson K700i, a camera phone with 4x digital zoom and Photo Light with automatic exposure control and automatic white balance for both still and video imaging. Boasting of a new and inviting retail look, the Sony Ericsson Concept Shop was designed to attract mobile product enthusiasts to the growing world of Sony Ericsson product and accessories. This attractive retail design will be carried by Sony Ericsson Concept Shops across the region. Aside from products on sale, the shop offers download stations for users to get in on exciting content ranging from games, wallpapers, screensavers, ringtones and applications available exclusively for Sony Ericsson handsets. The shop also provides efficient after-sales services by trained and accredited service personnel. Customers are assured of prompt service delivery. The Sony Ericsson Concept Shop opened last Sept. 22.

PLANTERSBANK BAGS SME AWARD

Planters Development Bank (Plantersbank) was awarded the 2004 Gawad SMEs in the Bank Excellence category and the 2004 Special Citation under the Guarantee Program for SMEs by the Small Business Guarantee and Finance Corporation (SB Corp) during the SME Development Week. The Gawad SME Award is the overall excellence award given By SB Corp to financial institutions that have given significant support to the SME sector. Photo shows (from left) Small Business Guarantee and Finance Corp (SB Corp) chair Zorayda Amelia Alonzo; Plantersbank president and chief operating officer Ma. Flordelis Aguenza; Department of Trade and Industry Secretary Cesar Purisima, and SB Corp president Benel Lagua.

ECCP INVESTORS ASSESSED OF ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

To encourage more investors and restore confidence in the equities market, the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) in cooperation with the Philippine Stock Exchange recently gave the ECCP member-companies orientation on the Philippine economy, stock market and the PSE's efforts to improve the exchange. In photo are (from left) ECCP executive vice president Henry Schumacher; director Tertius Vermeulen; PSE chair Alicia Morales-Arroyo; Elke Sacksofsky, first secretary, head of economic and commercial section of the German Embassy; and ECCP corporate secretary Gerry Constantino.

Interested in

LONG HOURS and LOW PAY?

Probably not. But you'll be surprised at the extent some people are willing to work to serve poor communities through the Jesuit Volunteers Philippines (JVP).

REQUIREMENTS:
- Must be a college graduate or graduating student aged 34 or younger
- Of good moral character
- Shouldn't mind having a difficult lifestyle, just so others can have a decent one

APPLY TODAY!
Call 9279060, or visit us at the JVP Office, Rm. 313 Bellarmine Hall, Ateneo de Manila or at www.jvpfi.org

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CRS is in need of highly qualified individuals for contractual positions for its Agriculture and Natural Resource Management (Agri/NRM) Program. CRS is an equal opportunity employer.

The persons we are looking for are to be based in Mindanao and should have experience in participatory community development and expertise in one of the following areas: Agronomy, Forestry, Agroforestry, Animal Husbandry, Aquaculture, Gender, Land-Use Planning, Agricultural Engineering, or other related fields. They should also have experience and ability in training, extension, and implementing field-level agricultural development programs. Emphasis on community organizing and project proposal development is preferred. Willing and able to travel extensively in remote areas in Mindanao and relate with Catholic and Muslim religious leaders, indigenous people leaders, government officials, people's organizations, and NGO leaders. Proficiency in MS Word and Excel a must.

AGRICULTURE PROJECT COORDINATORS (5)

- ❑ Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture, Agroforestry, or related field and experience in Sustainable Agriculture.
- ❑ At least five years experience working with NGOs, the Church, or government agencies in planning or implementation of rural development projects.
- ❑ Background in upland agriculture or natural resource development in Mindanao.

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT FACILITATOR

- ❑ Bachelor of Science degree in Forestry, Agroforestry or related field and experiences in community based natural resource management program and projects.
- ❑ At least five years experience working with NGOs, the Church, or government agencies in planning or implementation of rural development projects.
- ❑ Background in Social Forestry, Community-Based Forest Management in Mindanao and with some background in watershed "catchment" management.

MARKETING PROJECT COORDINATORS (3)

- ❑ Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Economics, Marketing, Business related courses, or related field and experience in agricultural trading and financing.
- ❑ At least five years experience working with NGOs, the Church, or government agencies in planning or implementation of rural development projects.
- ❑ Background in agriculture cooperative movements in Mindanao.

FINANCE ASSISTANT

- ❑ Degree in Accounting, Business Administration, or allied courses. CPA a plus. Proficient in bookkeeping and financial accounting.
- ❑ At least two years of related work experience. Proficiency in computer skills, including MS Word, Power Point, and Excel.

INFRASTRUCTURE ENGINEERS (2)

- ❑ Graduate of a related Engineering course. Background in actual design and construction of agricultural infrastructure projects.
- ❑ At least five years experience working with NGOs, the Church, or government agencies in planning or implementation of rural development projects.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

- ❑ Degree in Management, Accounting, Communications, or allied courses. Proficient in all aspects of secretarial and administrative functions.
- ❑ At least two years of related work experience. Proficiency in MS Word, Power Point, and Excel.

Interested individuals must submit an application letter, comprehensive resume with personal references via email or postal system to:
crsmro@crs-mindanao.org.ph
CRS Agri/NRM Program
No. 2 North Street, DBP Village, Ma-a, 8000 Davao City
Screening of applications to start on **October 22, 2004.** Deadline for applications is **October 31, 2004.**
(Only short listed candidates will be notified)

URGENT
An **American Company** in the Philippines is looking for:
Marketing Assistants
- Male or Female
- College Level or Graduate
- Good Command of English Language
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2. Female/ Any course with very good computer knowledge/ Grad / Good English

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Look for MR. JON
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NANNY
- Must have an existing US VISA
- 30-40 years old
- With experience for 3 year old girl
- Must know how to cook

Call: 428-2563

Children's Musicals at the CCP

SEVEN children's musicals by different theater groups will be presented in "Ikatlong Tagpo: The 2004 National Theater Festival" on Nov. 7-20 at the Cultural Center of the Philippines and associate festival venues.

"Pepe en Pilar" on Nov. 8, 3 p.m. and Nov. 9, 10 a.m., 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. at the St. Cecilia's Hall of the St. Scholastica's College Manila is a musical coproduction with Gantimpala Theater Foundation.

"Si Marya at Kiling," on Nov. 9, 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. and Nov. 10, 10 a.m. at the Tanghalang Huseng Batute, is a musical retelling of the legend of Maria Makiling.

TV and film actress Chin Chin Gutierrez leads the audience in an enchanting musical journey in "Uyayi ni Chin-Chin" (An Afternoon of Philippine Lullabies), on Nov. 13, 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

"Saranggola ni Pepe" (kite of Pepe) on Nov. 17, 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., at the Tanghalang Huseng Batute, is the stage version of the popular and award winning song. "Saranggola ni Pepe" will also be shown at the GSIS Theater on Nov. 12-13, 10 a.m. & 3 p.m.

"Hans Christian Andersen Must be Filipino," on Nov. 18, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. at the Tanghalang Aurelio Tolentino, transports Thumbelina, the Little Match Girl and the Tin Soldier to the streets of the Philippines.

"Ang Prinsipe ng Buwan," on Nov. 19, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. at the Tanghalang Aurelio Tolentino, is an interactive musical about the search for the elusive prince of the moon.

"Site & Rama" on Nov. 20, 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. is the rod puppet version of the Indian epic, Ramayana.

"Ikatlong Tagpo: The 2004 National Theater Festival" is a presentation of the CCP in cooperation with the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, the NCCA Committee on Dramatic Arts and the Unesco International Theater Institute.

Discounts for students, seniors and groups are available. For more information, please call the CCP Marketing Department at tel. No. 832-3681 or 832-1125 locals 1800-1806 or visit the festival website at www.culturalcenter.gov.ph/ntf.

URGENTLY NEEDED
FIELD ENGINEERS

Qualifications:
- Must be licensed Civil Engineers
- Minimum of 5 years experience in Estimate and Supervision of Vertical & Horizontal construction
- Newly licensed Engineer may also apply
- Residents of Pasig City preferred but not necessary
- Applicants should be productive, a fast and conscientious worker and can work under pressure

Applicants may send their resumé or apply in person at the Personnel Office, 4th Floor, Pasig City Hall, Caruncho Ave., Pasig City.

PRIVATIZATION AND MANAGEMENT OFFICE (PMO)
INVITATION TO SUBMIT OFFERS

Offered for Sale are fifty four (54) parcels of land formerly owned by PENINSULA BANK (Penbank), located at the towns of Pagbilao, Unisan and Tayabas Province of Quezon, as well as a parcel of land formerly owned by INTERLAND CHEMICALS, INC. (ICI), located at Barangay Balubad, Atimonan, Province of Quezon.

The 55 parcels of land are being offered on a per site and on an "as-is, where-is" basis, as follows:

Peninsula Development Bank (Penbank)
DAY 1 (Site 1 to 28)
November 23, 2004, Tuesday
Submission of Offers (2:00 to 3:00 p.m.)
(Opening of Tender Box - 3:00 p.m.)

Site No.	TCT No.	Lot No.	Area (sq.m.)	Indicative Price
1	T-201847	Lot-1117-A	3,719	803,000.00
2	T-390059	Lot-14-C-7	85	60,000.00
3	T-390060	Lot-14-C-11	100	95,000.00
4	T-390054	Lot-14-A-3	100	75,000.00
5	T-390055	Lot-14-A-4	100	75,000.00
6	T-390056	Lot-14-A-5	88	62,000.00
7	T-390098	Lot-10, Blk. 4	192	173,000.00
8	T-390052	Lot-2-A	120	108,000.00
9	T-390053	Lot-2-B	120	108,000.00
10	T-390087	Lot-18, Blk. 10-B	252	164,000.00
11	T-390086	Lot-7	115.5	87,000.00
12	T-390083	Lot-5	116	87,000.00
13	T-390085	Lot-7	119	87,000.00
14	T-390084	Lot-8	120	54,000.00
15	T-390103	Lot-8, Blk. 6	230	150,000.00
16	T-390089	Lot-7, Blk. 6	204	133,000.00
17	T-390051	Lot-6	89	67,000.00
18	T-390081	Lot-12, Blk. 8	227	148,000.00
19	T-390078	Lot-1	117	47,000.00
20	T-390076	Lot-8	110	66,000.00
21	T-390077	Lot-1	120	54,000.00
22	T-390075	Lot-2	183	82,000.00
23	T-390074	Lot-7	149	89,000.00
24	T-390072	Lot-6	97	58,000.00
25	T-390070	Lot-5	96	58,000.00
26	T-390071	Lot-4	107	64,000.00
27	T-390073	Lot-3, Blk. 10-A	372	130,000.00
28	T-390080	Lot-5	139	62,000.00

Peninsula Development Bank (Penbank)
DAY 2 (Site 29 to 54)
November 24, 2004, Wednesday
Submission of Offers (2:00 to 3:00 p.m.)
(Opening of Tender Box - 3:00 p.m.)

Site No.	TCT No.	Lot No.	Area (Sq.m.)	Indicative Price
29	T-390081	Lot-4	181	81,000.00
30	T-390079	Lot-3	117	53,000.00
31	T-390065	Lot-3	194	87,000.00
32	T-390066	Lot-6	142	85,000.00
33	T-390067	Lot-5	100	60,000.00
34	T-390068	Lot-4	95	58,000.00
35	T-390069	Lot-5	102	61,000.00
36	T-390088	Lot-4	82	37,000.00
37	T-390062	Lot-3	135	41,000.00
38	T-390063	Lot-5	84	22,000.00
39	T-390064	Lot-7	93	28,000.00
40	T-390101	Lot-12, Blk. 9	162	122,000.00
41	T-390097	Lot-3	199	129,000.00
42	T-390092	Lot-18, Blk. 10	162	122,000.00
43	T-390105	Lot-16, Blk. 5	163	106,000.00
44	T-390091	Lot-8, Blk. 11	231	150,000.00
45	T-390104	Lot-7, Blk. 13	137	89,000.00
46	T-390099	Lot-10, Blk. 13	150	98,000.00
47	T-390090	Lot-7, Blk. 8	150	90,000.00
48	T-390100	Lot-8, Blk. 8	150	90,000.00
49	T-390106	Lot-15, Blk. 6	150	90,000.00
50	T-390102	Lot-11, Blk. 9	150	98,000.00
51	T-390096	Lot1-B-2	830	208,000.00
52	T-390108	Lot-745	125	168,000.00
53	T-390094	Lot-3, Blk. 14	150	90,000.00
54	T-390109	Lot-9880-B-3-A	222	400,000.00

Interland Chemicals, Inc. (ICI)
DAY 2 (Site 55)
November 24, 2004, Wednesday
Submission of Offers (2:00 to 3:00 p.m.)
(Opening of Tender Box - 3:00 p.m.)

Site No.	TCT No.	Lot No.	Area (Sq.m.)	Indicative Price
55	T-297161	Parcel 7, Lot-3	41,501	6,225,000.00

Offers will be received, opened and tabulated in the presence of offerors following the assigned schedule.
Interested parties may request for the duly authenticated copies of the Offer for Sale documents for a nominal fee of P300.00 from the PMO Marketing Office, 104 Gamboa Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City.
For more information, please call Mr. John DF Baldemor of the PMO Marketing Department at 817-8331 or 817-8762

Republic of the Philippines
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
MUNICIPALITY OF GUIPOS
GUIPOS, ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

October 24, 2004

To All Qualified Bidders:

1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) towards the cost of financing the Third Elementary Education Project (TEEP) and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments for civil works component of the project. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the *Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits.*
2. The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the following projects and its location to wit:

PACKAGE NO.	PROJECT LOCATION	SCHOOL	TYPE OF WORK	PCAB CATEGORY	DATE OF OPENING OF BIDS
IFB-ZDS-LGU-07-002-03-2004	GUIPOS Central ES Guipos, Zamboanga del Sur	Refer to Bidding Documents for Details	NC-2 Storey 6CL School Bldg.	Medium "A" ARC	November 24, 2004 @ 2:00 PM

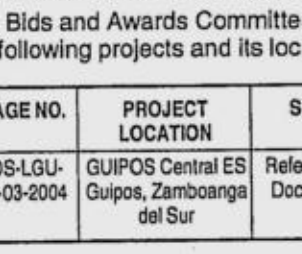
Notes: NC – New Construction; RR – Repair/Rehabilitation; CL – Classrooms

3. Bidding documents may be purchased at Office of Municipal Engineer with office address at Municipal Hall, Guipos, Zamboanga del Sur for a non-refundable fee of PhP 3,000.00 for each set. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.
4. Bids shall be valid for a period of ninety (90) days after Bid opening and must be accompanied by a security in the amount of 2.5% of total bid price, and shall be delivered to Municipal Bids and Awards Committee, Municipal Hall, Guipos, Zamboanga del Sur on or before above stated time and dates, at which they will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.
5. For clarification, a Pre-Bid Conference will be conducted on November 8, 2004 at 10:00 A.M. at the office of the Municipal Engineer, Guipos, Zamboanga del Sur.

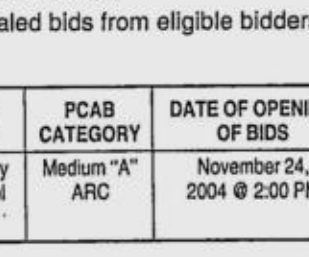
(Sgd.) ADRIANO L. ALCAZARIN
Chairperson
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – October 24, 2004)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



Raphael "Raffy" S. Manrique



Elmer R. Neri

Are no longer connected with us effective October 16, 2004 and October 15, 2004 respectively.

COMGLASCO AG CORPORATION
5/F 111 Paseo De Roxas cor. Legaspi St., Legaspi Vill., Makati City

(PDI--Oct. 24, 2004)

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How Manila 'FAME' helped these three entrepreneurs

By Amy R. Remo

THE ROAD to fame and fortune is a difficult path.

But the Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions' Manila F.A.M.E. International fair tries to make it a bit more passable for Filipino exporters.

Citem, the export promotions arm of the Department of Trade and Industry, has been holding the fair for 21 years.

Dubbed as Asia's Queen of Trade Fairs, the October Manila F.A.M.E. plays host to 540 of the country's leading exporters and about 4,000 local and foreign buyers.

It is held in four venues—World Trade Center and East Pavilion (gift and home furnishing), Philippine Trade Training Center (fashion accessories) and PICC forum (holiday decor).

Although strictly a trade and order-taking show, the fair is open to the public today, its last day, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., with a P150 entrance fee.

"[The] show's continued success is proof that Philippine-made furnishings, holiday decor and fashion accessories have what it takes to compete in the global market," stresses Trade Secretary Cesar V. Purisima during the opening ceremony.

Since 1983, F.A.M.E. has featured over 2,000 companies and developed new export sectors such as ceramics, handmade paper, holiday decor, wooden gifts and fashion accessories.

For the past five years, F.A.M.E. contributed an average of 15 percent to the total Philippine exports of furnishings, holiday decor and fashion accessories. Within the same period, it generated $715 million in sales. Thru its visiting buyers, it has infused P613 million into the local economy in the form of hotel, food and transportation expenses.

The highest sales generated in a single Citem show was a whopping $235 million in 1999.

The INQUIRER interviewed three veteran exhibitors from the gift and home furnishings category.

Shell Arts Co. Inc.
(Cavite)

Company president Virginia V. Chan's advice to budding exporters: "Decide what product line you want and stick firmly to it."

Chan, who has been with the company for 40 years, says she has seen a lot of hopeful exporters shifting from one product base to another, depending on what is the "in-demand" product, whether it's abaca, capiz or any one of the indigenous materials.

Although it is essential to keep up with the latest trends, one must also stick to a particular base product and diversify within it, in order to create specialization.

For Shell Arts, Chan says they chose capiz and shells because "it is the product we already know."

Shell Arts takes its roots from Shellcraft & Button Corp., founded by Americans in the 1920s. Seeing the potential of the shell industry, they started shipping capiz and mother-of-pearl products to the US.

Shellcraft was the first to produce laminated capiz panels, used for walls, table tops and other decorative items. Shellcrafts changed its name again to Shell Arts Co. Inc.

"We joined the fair in 1983 because we saw it as a way to develop new products," says Chan.

On its first fair, Shell Arts had sales of $55,000—then a handsome amount.

Meanwhile, in the April 2004 fair, its sales amounted to about $500,000.

Shell Arts produces tableware, laminated house furnishings and décors, bath accessories and chandeliers. Bestsellers include lighting fixtures and capiz curtains. It exports to the US, France, Italy, Japan, Australia and Germany.

Weaverscraft Inc.
(Angeles City, Pampanga)

"Know your craft well."

Julie B. Sarmiento, VP for marketing of Weaverscraft, says this is one of the most important lessons learned by the company, with its 21 years of experience in the export industry.

"You have to concentrate on a particular craft such as weaving or furniture-making but make sure to keep abreast of the latest market trends," says Sarmiento.

Sarmiento adds that you have to continually learn and develop products. "The game's all about flexibility—learn to adapt to changes while honing your craft."

Weaverscraft started in 1983 with wicker baskets. After finding an international market for their baskets and decors, it diversified to furniture, home furnishings and holiday decors.

In 1986, Weaverscraft joined the Manila F.A.M.E. fair, despite already having a fairly successful exporting business.

"We heard good feedback from other exporters about the benefits of joining F.A.M.E. that's why we joined," says Sarmiento. "Joining the fair enabled us to capture other markets (countries)."

"Each fair, we are able to show our frequent buyers our latest products and at the same time, meet new customers, both for wholesale and retail, local and international," adds Sarmiento.

Last April, Weaverscraft's sales amounted to some $100,000.

Its line of products also include bathroom, home and office accessories, tabletop, kids' furniture and storage baskets and containers. These are all mainly made of rattan, abaca and hyacinth (bangkwang).

A&S Design
(Parañaque City)

Joining prominent international trade fairs such as Manila F.A.M.E. was a marketing move for Alan B. Lastimoso.

CHAN and a capiz chandelier, which costs around $425

SARMIENTO (right) and A. Baltazar with some of Weaverscraft's famed baskets PHOTOS BY JESS YUS

"I saw it as a better way to look for more buyers," says Lastimoso.

A&S Design was put up by Lastimoso in 1988, using abaca as the base product. From abaca, A&S produced angel décors, paper, lamps and lighting fixtures.

He used abaca because it is one of the few indigenous materials, which cannot be found (if not, rare) anywhere else in the world.

Back then, his client was solely the US market.

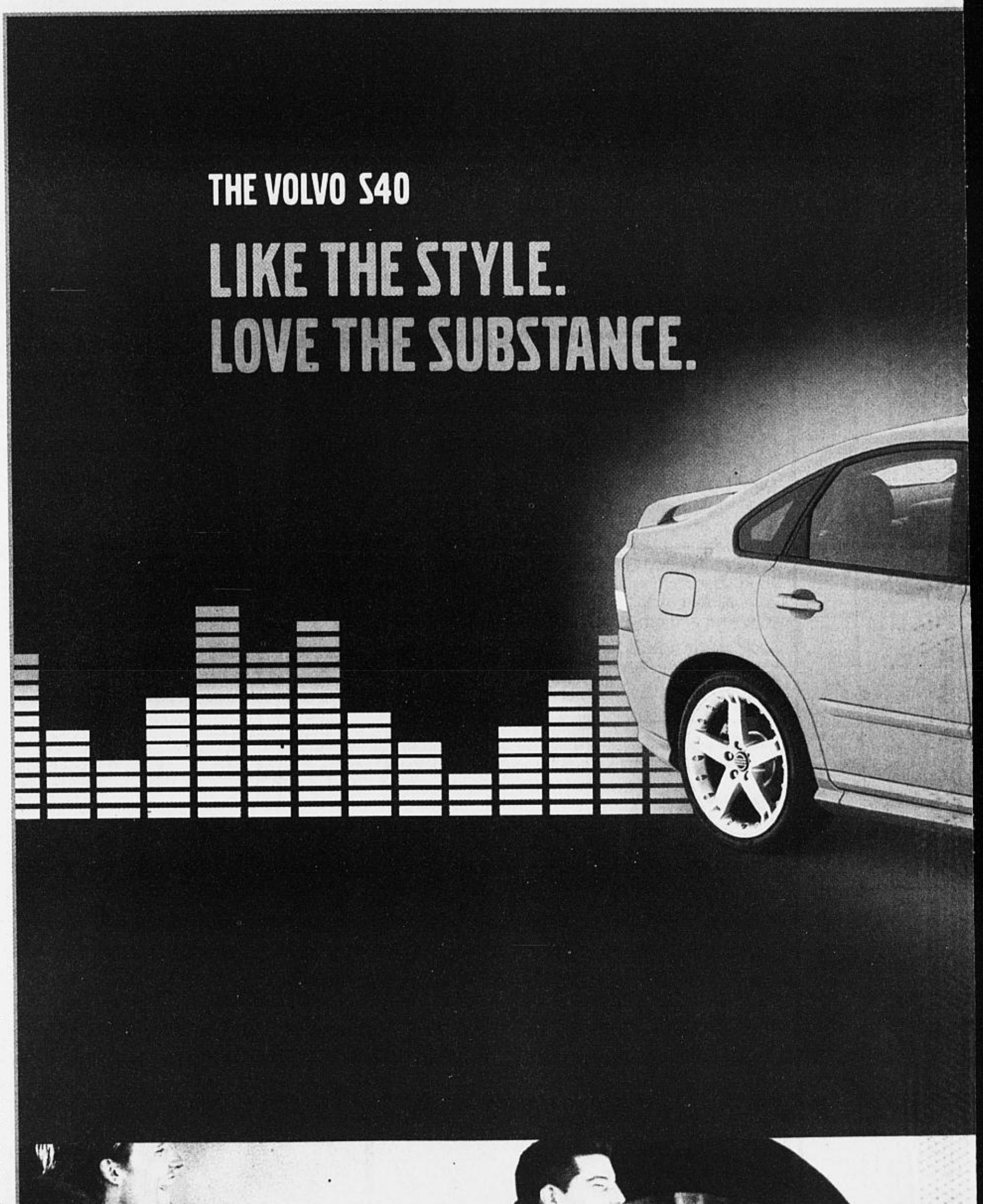
It was only in 1996 that Lastimoso decided to give the fair a try to capture other market

"With these fairs, you learn to divers your products to keep up with the compe tion," says Lastimoso.

At first, A&S products were mainly crafts su as the angel décors. After the fair, he learned play around with abaca and come up with n and innovative products to suit the discrimin ing tastes of the international market.

To date, 90 percent of Lastimoso's clie are from Europe. He still exports to the US.

LASTIMOSO and his abaca creations



BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Limited edition license plate goes for P380,000

By Clarissa S. Batino

THERE must be money in plates because the Land Transportation Office is selling them like hot cakes.

After the LTO launched the sale of vanity plates and held an auction last month for the most sought-after combinations, the restless transport agency unveiled another revenue-raising program last Oct. 14.

It was the special plates this time around and the sale of these, over a five-year period, is estimated to yield at least P1.1 billion for the government. Selling vanity plates for five years should deliver at least P3.5 billion to state coffers, according to the LTO.

Offhand, there seems to be not much difference between the two plate categories.

Both offer similar come-ons like a choice of one's own alphanumeric combination, including the much-desired 8s and 168's that many Chinese-Filipinos are willing to pay good money for because they mean luck and prosperity.

The price range is also similar, at least if you compare the rate of the special plates with the select and premium vanity plates that sell for P10,000 and P15,000 each.

The 105 limited edition plates cost at least P50,000. The LTO fetched a bid of as much as P380,000 for one of the 8s combination during the auction last Sept. 29. A second auction is scheduled on Nov. 17.

LTO chief Anneli Lontoc says the special plates are being sold to new car owners. These plates are to be issued to the vehicle and would work like a regular plate that should be renewed yearly.

"Also, special plates are not exempt from color coding," she adds.

Vanity plates, on the other hand, are issued to the car owner and need not be renewed yearly. The limited edition vanity plates are supposedly exempt from the number coding but some local governments like Makati refuses to honor the exemption.

"We are now selling special plates only to brand new cars. This is different from vanity plates that are issued to car owners. These special plates would be issued to the vehicles," says Lontoc. Only brand new, private cars could avail of the special plates. Government cars, diplomatic cars, public vehicles and second-hand, used and imported cars won't be allowed to use special plates. There are 1.4 million pairs of special plates up for grabs.

The special plates are now selling for P15,000 each for the 3 alpha and 3 numeric combinations and P25,000 each for the 3 alpha and 2 numeric mix.

"The six alphanumeric combinations are cheaper because they resemble the regular plates we issue whereas the 3 alpha and 2 numeric combination is obviously different so we decided to ask for a higher fee," explains Lontoc.

The special plates program was done in coordination with car dealers, according to the LTO.

When the LTO launched the program, it sold two plates already. Lontoc says lucky combinations like 888 and 168 are still available.

Lontoc says the LTO came up with the program following discussions with car dealers who assured the government that there was continuing demand for special plates, especially among new car owners.

And with an aggressive revenue raiser like the LTO, where demand is, the plates follow.

She said car dealers project to sell about 100,000 units this year. Each year, vehicle sales should go up between 10 and 15 percent.

"The estimated P1.1 billion from the sale of special plates is on top of the P3.5 billion we hope to raise from vanity plates," says Lontoc. The LTO is one of the biggest-earning government agencies that collect about P7.5 billion each year.

"All collections from the special plates program as well as with the vanity plates would all accrue to the national government," notes the LTO chief.

Lontoc says that during last month's auction of vanity plates, the LTO was able to sell about 42 plates for a total of P3.7 million. The remaining 63 limited edition vanities are to be sold on Nov. 17.

The LTO chief says at least two well-known magnates ran away with the much sought after plates last month but she refused to reveal their identities.

The 8s fetched the highest bids ranging from P350,000 to P380,000, according to the LTO. These plates are the four 8s, five 8s and six 8s. The LTO said the As were also attractive.

The LTO is also expecting to sell about 260,000 of the premium and select vanity plates over a five-year period.

Premium plates consist of 6 alphanumeric characters and are like a reverse of the regular plates. For instance, one could reserve 777CSB. Select plates are 3 to 6 characters like JST 4U, or GANDA or MACHO.

"Vanity plates are for life. They will be issued to the car owner and not to the car. When you sell a car, the regular plate goes with it but the vanity plate you can keep," the LTO chief notes.

Villagers live on where they...

From page B5

my parents," she stressed, adding that the "treasure" is the soil in their backyard, which, she observes, seems not to get depleted despite its being frequently dug.

Barangay Putsan has a land area of 95.3 hectares inhabited by 218 households or a population of 1,304.

Nana Vering says she started making clay pots since she was 12 years old.

According to her, pot making is not easy. But it has been an ancestral livelihood.

"I am earning P500 a week but sometimes we fail to meet the customers' demand," she says. "I grew up making clay products, especially coron, it has been our only livelihood." Coron is a cooking pot.

"The good thing is that customers just come to our place; they are mostly local tourists from other parts of the region and Metro Manila," Nana Vering adds.

Red clay

Pottery-making in the Philippines dates back to the days of Filipino ancestors when they placed their clay containers on the embers of an open fire to cook food.

Many countries still use clay cooking pots. The Moroccans use their tagine, the Spanish their cazuela and the Indians their tandoori.

The residents in Tiwi use the coron. This geothermal town is the major producer of coron and other clay-made products in the region.

Pottery-making in Bicol is called "pikpik," referring to the repeated paddling needed to compress and strengthen the clay mixture. The best red clay is abundant in Nana Vering's village of Putsan.

She says it's not that easy to make pots as they do it manually or the traditional way.

"It takes about a week for us to come up with properly made pots and related products such as terracotta," she explained.

Process

While demonstrating, she says, "first you have to dig clay from the backyard for the ingredients." The clay is sun-dried and it goes through the "pig-inin" or sifting to clean it of twigs and pebbles.

Then it is crushed with stone, pulverized and sifted again.

After drying slowly for several days, the coron is ready for the open fire. This particular task is reserved for the males in the household.

The ground is covered with sand and at least three layers of bagul (dried coconut shell), guhi (bamboo stalks) and dry pieces of wood.

The pots are arranged on top of the bed of wood. A fire is lit in the center and then the ata (rice husk) is quickly shoveled over the pots to seal in the heat.

The process takes almost a week.

From beginning to end, clay pot making is done with skills passed from parents to children and perfected through years of practice without benefit of written manuals.

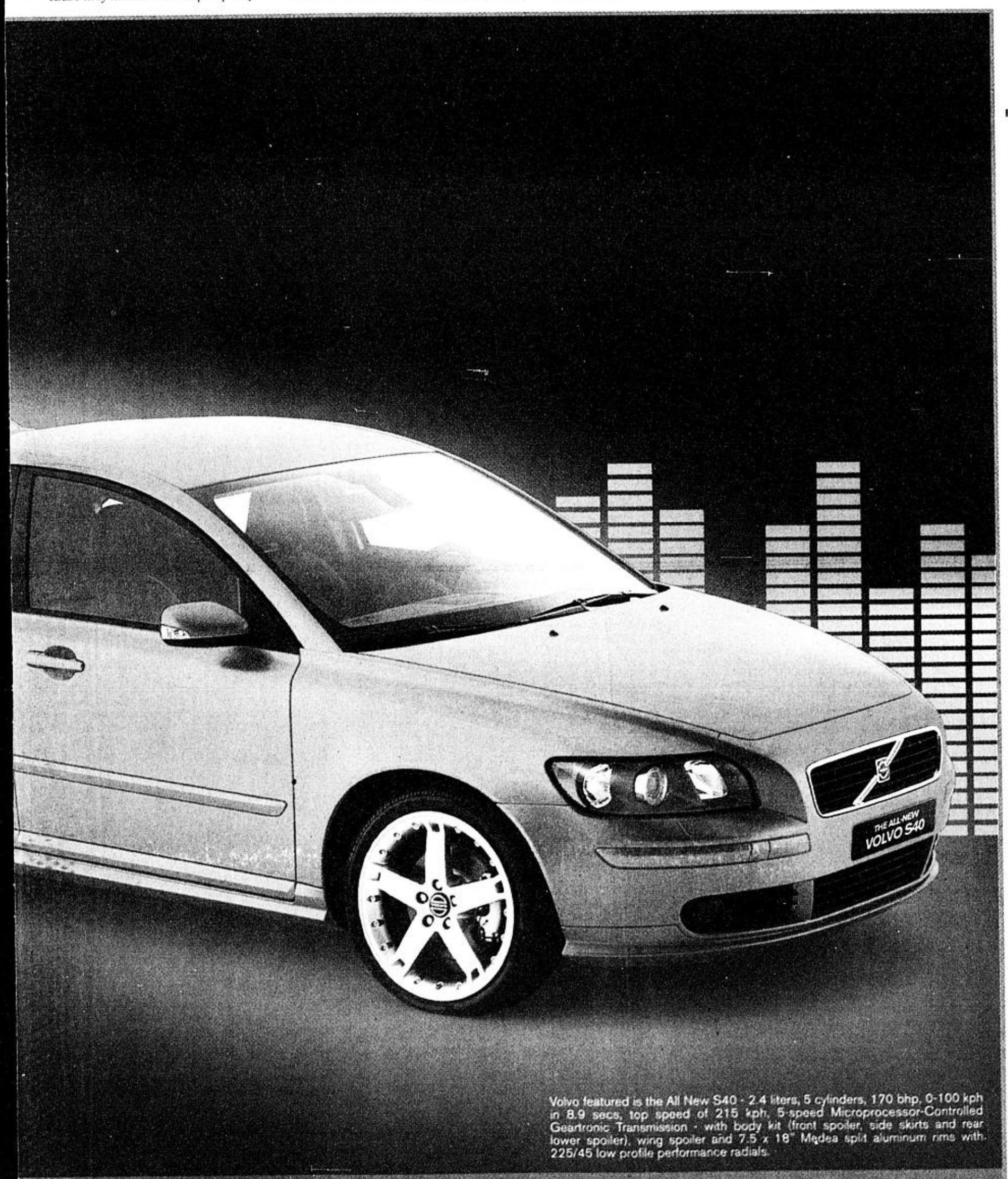
Market

Coron makes its way to the cities of Tabaco, Legazpi, and even those in Metro Manila. But most stay in the stalls that line the church patio at the poblacion.

Sales are brisk in August, when pilgrims visit Tiwi's miraculous image of the Nuestra Señora de Salvacion in Barangay Joroan.

Nowadays, local and foreign tourists come and go as they are boosted by the tourism package of the local government.

This, after the launching of Koron Festival in 2001, which features not only the culture and products of this steam-rich town but also its ceramics potentials in the international market, and the rehabilitation of the NagPark by the Unocal Philippines Inc. (formerly Philippine Geothermal Inc.), aside from the annual pilgrimage of thousands of devotees to Barangay Joroan in this town to pay homage to the Nuestra Señora de Salvacion, the patroness of the province of Albay.



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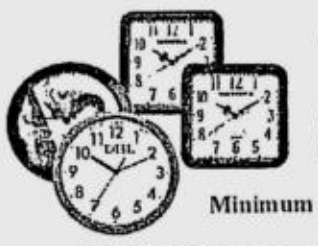

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QUEZON CITY	MIN BID
1. Condo / Unit-1,4/F, San Jose Condo.#119 Sct.Fernandez St. Brgy.Sacred Heart / F.A.- 42 w/ parking slot (near church)	1,000,000
2. L-8 B-4, Adrian St, North Fair view Park,P Putik/LA-300 (near SM)	1,803,000
3. H&L/# 269 M.Aquino St. Banlat Rd,T.Sora.LA-120 / FA-191 (near St.Anthony Schl & NPC Subd)	1,913,000
4. L-7 B-82,Yakal St,Neopolitan Subd.Seville/LA-400 (near SM F'view)	2,000,000
VALENZUELA CITY	**MIN BID**
Access via East Service Rd., Malinta Exit	
5. H & L / Lot-11 Blk-6, Camelia St., De Castro Subd., Bagbaguin / L.A.-226 / F.A.-100 * WITH LIS PENDENS *	846,000
6. Lot / Lot-551-A-2-A-3, Pineda Compd, Bonifacio St./LA-1,114	2,241,000
7. 2 Sty. Hse.& Lot/Lot-1, 2 & 3 Blk-7, cor.of Aster, Wistaria & Forsythia Sts,De Castro Subd. Bagbaguin / TLA-650 / FA-547	6,660,000
8. Hse & Lot / Lot-4-A, B & C, F. Bautista St.cor.Compd Rd. Ugong / L.A.-3,195 / F.A.-115 * WITH LIS PENDENS *	8,432,000
CAINTA - Riverside Subd.	**MIN BID**
9. H&L / # 3 Maganda St, Sto. Domingo LA-341/FA-272(near junction)	1,807,000
MUNTINLUPA - Tunasan	**MIN BID**
Victoria Hms. Subd.- via Magsaysay Rd.	
10. L-125-B-3-A, Almond St/LA-436	1,069,000
11. L-127-B-3-A, Almond St/LA-459	1,125,000
PASIG - Ortigas Center	**MIN BID**
12. Condo -4BR, 5TB, Maid's Rm & Pkng./Unit-2802 AIC Gold Twr. Emerald Ave / F.A.- 187.17 (near Robinsons & Poveda Schl)	6,900,000
ANTIPOLO, RIZAL	**MIN BID**
13. L-20 B-17, Jerusalem St Ph-5 Brgy Uulan/LA-120 (via Tikling Junction & Melendres Subd)	332,000
14. L-23 B-10, Cottonwood Hts. Bayugo /LA-266 (near Sumulong)	2,049,000
15. L-21 B-2, Cottonwood Hts Bayugo /LA-355 (near Sumulong)	2,734,000
16. Lot-47 Blk-18,Park Ridge Est. Ph.-3 (via Valley Golf) LA-811	2,058,000
17. L-17 B-1, Beverly St, Sta. Barbara-1 Luxury Est,Mission Hills,Colaique/LA-1,021 (near Pines City)	4,102,000
ANGONO RZL.- via Antipolo	**MIN BID**
18. L-6 B-2, Mills St, Sta. Monica Classic Est,Ph-3,Mission Hills Brgy Colaique/LA-540 (near Pines City)	2,096,000
CAVITE - Bacoor, Molino	**MIN BID**
Springville Subd - near Daan Hari Rd.	
19. L-10-B Blk-2 Rimas St /LA-71	320,000
CAVITE - Mla. Southwoods	**MIN BID**
20. Lot-16 Block-1, Ph.-1, Brgy. Bayboy, Carmona / LA-1,224	6,577,000
CAVITE-Naic, Brgy. Palangue	**MIN BID**
Mango Orchard Res'l. & Farm Estates	
21. Lot-6 Blk -18 / L.A.- 1,468	1,468,000
22. Lot-5 Blk -19 / L.A.- 964	964,000
23. Lot-6 Blk -19 / L.A.- 1,194	1,194,000
24. Lot-4 Blk -19-A / L.A.- 2,953	2,953,000
25. Lot-10 Blk -19-B / L.A.- 2,245	2,245,000
TAGAYTAY CITY	**MIN BID**
In between Sta. Rosa short-cut & Aguinaldo H-way	
26. Lot/Lot-8, Tagaytay-Calamba Rd.,Brgy. Tolentino-West (over looking Taal Lake) L.A.- 2,156 * WITH LIS PENDENS *	20,000,000
CALOOCAN CITY	**MIN BID**
27. Lot / Lot-25 & 26 Blk -31, 2nd St., Gracepark / L.A.- 388.60 (In between 3rd & 4th Avenue)	4,300,000
TARLAC CITY	**MIN BID**
28. Agro-Indl / Lot-3871-D,Sapang Maragul Tibag /LA-10 001-near arch	3,315,000
NUEVA ECIJA - Cab. City	**MIN BID**
# 529 Pag-Asa, Daan Sarili (near L.T.O.)	
29. Lot 3-A-6 / NLA-1,820.62	400,000
30. Lot 2-A / NLA-2,535.36	1,388,000
31. 2 Sty. Res'l / Lot-2-G N.L.A.-1,861.9 / F.A.-138	4,022,000

RESIDENTIAL

BULACAN - MALOLOS	MIN BID
32. H&L / Lot 2 & 3 Blk-17,Desta Ave cor. 1st St., Desta Hms. Brgy Atlag LA-515/FA-293.84 (near Sto. Cristo Diversion Rd.)	3,490,000
MAKATI - Brgy. Singkamas	**MIN BID**
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33. Lot / Lot-1 Blk-23 / L.A.- 282	4,000,000
34. Lot / Lot-2 Blk-23 / L.A.- 315 * WITH EXISTING CASE *	4,469,000
Orchard Res'l. Estates and Golf & Country Club - Salitran, Dasmarinas, Cavite	
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37. Lot-93 Blk.-48 / L.A.- 783	2,976,000
NON - FAIRWAY LOTS	
38. Lot-09 Blk -37 / L.A.- 672	2,016,000
39. Lot-35 Blk.-37 / L.A.- 687	2,061,000
40. Lot-67 Blk -46 / L.A.- 506	1,518,000
BICOL - Camarines Sur	**MIN BID**
- near Calagbangan crossing -	
41. Lot-450-B, Maharlika Hi-way Calagbangan, Sipocot/LA-1,820	150,000
42. Lot/Lot-450-C,Maharlika Hi-way Calagbangan, Sipocot/LA-1,820	150,000

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PARANAQUE - Across Evacom	MIN BID
43. Comm'l. Lot w/ Bldgs. / Lot 7-B Angelina Canaynay Ave., San Dionisio / LA-3,066 / FA-1,460	52,102,000
MAKATI CITY	**MIN BID**
44. Condo 5/F Millenium Plaza Mkti Ave cor Eduque St/FA-261.24	17,765,000
45. Lot-1-B & 2-B, Buendia Ave. cor. Marconi St / T.L.A.-472	20,636,000
MANILA	**MIN BID**
46. 3 Sty Bldg /Anacleto St.(near Jollibee-Tayuman)LA-294/FA-810	18,299,000
47. 2/F KP Twr.,CM Recto Ave. cor. Juan Luna St / FA-658	28,792,000
QUEZON CITY	**MIN BID**
48. Lot w/ Warehse / Lot 8 & 9 Blk-S-27, Timog Ave/LA-1,380 FA-1,500 (near Unionbank Br. & GMA-7) * ON LEASE *	70,000,000
49. Lot w/ Warehse/#185 Roosevelt Ave., San Francisco Del Monte / LA-5,641 / FA-3,454 (near Unionbank Br.-Del Monte)	140,000,000
50. Lot w/ Warehse./ # 138 Gen. Luis cor. Pasacola Rd., Brgy. Nagkaisang Nayon,Novaliches L.A.- 49,504 / F.A.- 23,384	300,000,000
NUEVA ECIJA - Cab. City	**MIN BID**
# 529 Pag-Asa, Daan Sarili (near L.T.O.)	
51. Agri. Lot /Lot-3-B/NLA-37,041	2,366,000
52. Comml. Lot w/ Whse & Offc. Lot-2-H/NLA-2,260.67/FA-580	5,098,000
VALENZUELA CITY	**MIN BID**
53. Indl. Lot / Lot-301-B-1, Brgy. Maysan/NLA-3,269 *No right of way*	1,906,000
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55. Warehse./ Lot-13 Templanza St., Don Pedro Vill., Marulas LA-2,540/FA-3,314 -near Savory Rest.	20,232,000
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57. Ind'l. Lot w/ Bldgs /Lot-382-G Plastic City Housing,Canumay LA-25,798/FA-5,310 -via T Santiago St	51,000,000
TAGUIG-Global City Fort Boni	**MIN BID**
(Infront of Adidas Sports Camp)	
58. Lot-3 Blk -18 / L.A.- 1,643	184,300,000
TARLAC CITY	**MIN BID**
Town proper - infront of ice plant	
59. Lot-4-C, Rizal St. / L.A.-759	8,093,000
60. Lot-4-B,Rizal cor.Panganiban Sts / L.A.- 1,102	11,752,000
SARIAYA - QUEZON PROV.	**MIN BID**
61. Agri Lot w/ resi H&L,Whse & Piggery/Lot-6181-A-5-A-1-A-1-I Psd 4A-001202, Bo. Sampaloc TLA-101,036.65 / TFA-9,277 -near bridge	45,053,000

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A PRIME SUBD 2 bdrms 1T&B LA 170m². P1.3M Vic 8903461 loc 25/27

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AYALA PROPERTY AT STO TOMAS BATANGAS 364 SQM HOUSE N LOT B4 3M NOW 2.5M NEG •0918-9424538•

BULACAN

STA. MARIA 225T 3636468

CAVITE

CAMELLA HOMES BACOOR LA 137m² FA198.9M² 5BR P1.7M Vic 8903461 loc 27
BACOOR 650T 09202434690

LAGUNA

BINAN 400T (0920)2434690
LA97 CT/450T 0920-6019694

LAGUNA

METROVILLE SUBD LA 122m² 2bdrms 1T&B FA61.28m² P1.2M Vic 8903461 loc 27
MILAN CAMELLA HOMES 3Stry FA2 10m² P1.9M VIC 8903461 LOC 27/25

CONDO/TWNHSE

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CASA TRASIERRA CONDO
Talisay St. Makati 1 Bdrm 1T&B 70sqm w/ 1 park sp. Good location, beside Oriental Hotel across Skyland Towers Malugay 2.4M Nego 09175261005
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Beautiful skyline view Makati 17th Flr. Front Don Bosco 2Bdrms 2T&B 100sqm w/ 1 park sp. 3.8M Direct buyers 09175261005
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Rent to Own P1.2M & Up P9T /mo. Nr D'Fort 17Mins to Mkti Also in Ortigas 0917-8221107
Kensington Place 0917-5213838
MKT NR AYALA
BnewTwnhse/3stry/3br/2-2 1/2tb/grge P3.285M up 8903461 loc 34
NEW MAKATI CONDO
1,2,3br Ready to Move-In nr Ayala Cash / Terms Discounts 1.8M up 4108395;09198504468
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THE FORT 2BR, GOLF COURSE VIEW RFO END OF THE YEAR 4 INQUIRIES 0918-9424538
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Std.1,2 BR ALL BRAND NEW w/view UNF/FEURN 33-55sqm Aff. 1st Class Amenities 5242760 or 09178248178
RFO 94sq.m w/ 2 Pkng P6.5M Global City 0917-5213838
Serendra by Ayala 09167711935

MANILA

MALATE, MANILA
STUDIO FA=28.40sqm
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MANDALUYONG

Cityland Shaw 1br 0917-5213838
WACK2 Twin P1.5M 7212994

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QUEZON CITY

Acropolis 2 QC 09167711935
Alpha Victoria 0917-5213838
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EASTWOOD 2BR 3BA + Mds Rm + Lndry Rm 77m² floor Grent River view pool 24Hr security 5M 09215860371
Timog 990T 20% DP 15YRS 292-6137, 0917-8160250
Tomas Morato 1BR w/Park 0917-5240606 • 928-3083

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LOT

Small lots along Cong. Ave. facing south area from 230m² up P8,500/m²
9314946 9324696

ALABANG

ALABANG 09228094827

KALOOCAN

Rainbow Village 5 LA 216m² P3,473/m² Vic 8903461 loc 25

LAS PINAS

METROCOR 254sqm @P4700 near SM 800-4771

MAKATI

240 sqm Sagittarius Mkt Lease or Sale T-6310279
McKinley Hills
Global City P10M
534-1212 • 0917-5213838

MANDALUYONG

Lot Edsa 400m² 645-3731
MAND. 600m² LOT 532-3936

PASIG

METROVILLE SUBD LA333m² P4,054/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27
Rosario 1500 / 3000m² 645-3731

QUEZON CITY

1968sqm Comml cor Kings Point Subd. 0917-3704556/3509358

RIZAL

164m² lot near Masinag 0918-6187854 / 09183411194

OTHER AREAS

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OTHER PROVINCIAL

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BATANGAS

RANCHO VISTA SUBD LA613m2 P2,284/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

LOT

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Baguio City: (074) 4422125 ; 3043276 0917-5068548 Helen or (074) 4480375 0920-9249071 Patrick

BULACAN

SAN MIGUEL BUL 4000m² P180/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

CAVITE

DON BOSCO EXEC HTS LA128m2 P2,900/m2 Vic 8903461 loc 27
PARKPLACE SUBD LA120m² P5,750/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27
PARKPLACE SUBD LA149.30m² P6,028/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27
ST. CHARBEL DASMA nr SM 371m2 P2,550.m2 Vic 8903461 loc 27

LAGUNA

Palo Alto Calamba 3Has Res. Lot P700 / SQM T8425621
SN PEDRO 204 SQM NR NAT HI - WAY 3500 / SQM 7789270
SOUTH PEAK P5,000/m2 LA240m2 Vic 8903461 loc 25/27

OFFICE SPACE

• Mkti 21m² 890T 532-4634

MEMORIAL LOT

HMLAYAN 12 LOTS 772-5587

BULACAN

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QUEZON CITY/ NOVALICHES

Res'l H&L - L-3-D-I-G Int. Belen St., Gulod, San Bartolome, Novaliches, Q.C., 215 sq.m. P1,100,500.00

Res'l lot - London Drive, San Bartolome, Novaliches, Q.C., P3,000,000.00

Condo Unit - Unit 604, 6th Flr. Elizabeth Mansions Condo., N.Domingo St., Cubao, Q.C., P9,000,000.00

Res'l H&L - #108 Mariveles St., Ma. Clara, Sta. Mesa Heights, Q.C., P13,720,000.00

MANILA

Res'l lot - España cor. Macaraeg St., Sampaloc Mla., 1550 sq.m. P59,690,000.00

PASAY

Office space condo unit - 12-2D EGI Rufino Plaza Condo Gil Puyat Ave., Pasay City,65.138sq.m., P 2,963,779.00

Office space condo unit - 12-2E EGI Rufino Plaza Condo Gil Puyat Ave., Pasay City,56.63 sq.m., P 2,406,775.00

Office space condo unit - 12-2F EGI Rufino Plaza Condo Gil Puyat Ave., Pasay City, 64.276 sq.m., P 3,278,076.25

Office space condo units - 10th flr., Taft Ave. & A. Luna Sts., EGI 10-2F Rufino Plaza, Condominium, Gil Puyat Ave., Pasay City,64.276 sq.m., P 6,580,733.54

MANDALUYONG/ PASIG CITY/ TAGUIG

Res'l Condo Unit w/ parking slot - Unit 1127, Cityland Wack-Wack Royal Mansion, Wack-wack Road, Mandaluyong City, 99.16 sq.m., P 5,500,000.00

Condo Unit - Unit 302 Pearl Condominium Project, Pasig City (with parking slot- No. 19), 167.76 sq.m., P 6,787,380.00, 12.50sq.m.(parking)

Res'l w/ Imprvt. - # 426 Gomezville St., Brgy. Addition Hills, Mandaluyong City, 367 sq.m., P 9,402,500.00

Condo unit w/ parking slot - Unit 303 Pearl Condo. Project, Pasig City,167.76sq.m., P6,800,000.00, 12.50sq.m.(parking)

Res'l H&L - L-2-B & 3, Ilaya St., Bagong Ilog, Pasig City, 558.85sq.m., P10,255,550.00

Office space condo units - Unit 2001 - 10 units at the 20th Flr. Prestige Prestige Towers Condo., Emerald Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City,155.38 sq.m., P 8,468,210.00

CALOOCAN

Res'l vacant lot - Mayville Subd., Brgy. Llano, Caloocan City, 240sq.m., P 480,000.00

Res'l Bldg.- L-5, B-8 Perpetual Help Village Bagumbong, Caloocan City, 374 sq.m., P 598,400.00

Res'l Bldg.- L-2, B-8 Perpetual Help Village Bagumbong, Caloocan City, 313 sq.m., P500,800.00

Vacant lot - L-5, B-5 Perpetual Help Village Bagumbong, Caloocan City, 402 sq.m., P482,400.00

MANDALUYONG

Office space condo unit - 10th Flr. Columbia Towers Bldg., Ortigas, Mandaluyong, 4 units, P22,945.000.00

PARAÑAQUE

Townhouse - Unit II, Villa Carolina Townhomes III, Roxas Blvd., cor. Sweet Drive, Bgy. Tambo, P'que City, 121 sq.m., P4,925,000.00

Condo unit - Unit B, 116 Marina Bayhomes Condo., Atlantic cor. Bayview Dr., P'que, 278sq.m., P10,174.000.00

ANTIPOLO CITY/ RIZAL

Res'l w/ Imprvt - Executive Hills Compound, Dolores, Taytay, Rizal, 6,972 sq.m., P18,233.000.00

Res'l vacant lots - Parkridge Estate, Antipolo City, (13 titles) 6,711 sq.m., P25,012,000.00

LAGUNA

Res'l vacant lots - Lot 28, Blk. 19, Matalino St., Mutual Homes, Laguna, 200 sq.m. P540,000.00

Res'l vacant lots - Lot 30, Blk. 19 Bo. Niyugan, Cabuyao, Laguna, 200 sq.m. P540,000.00

CAVITE

Res'l lot - Lot 29 Blk. 44 Sherwood Hills, Bgy. Cabezas & Lallana Trece Martirez, Cavite, 555 sq.m., P2,331,000.00

Res'l vacant lots - Lot 2 Blk. 66, Trece Martirez City, Cavite ,422 sq.m. P1,181,600.00

Res'l lot - Lot 32 Blk 62 Brgy, Cabilang Baybay, Carmona, Cavite 1,500 sq.m. P24,911,437.50

Res'l vacant lot - Lot 5, Blk 11, Rodeo Country Side Estate, Alfonso,Cavite, 2,000 sq.m. P3,000,000.00

TARLAC/ZAMBALES

Res'l w/ 2 units (bldg.)-Lot 9, (203) Espejo St., San Manuel, Tarlac, 1,194 sq.m., P 743,000.00

Comm'l/Res'l w/2 storey bldg - Lot 3076, Brgy. Bayto, Sta Cruz, Zambales, 4,753 sq.m., P 4,985,550.00

Res'l H&L - Lot 1143-A, Sto. Rosario, San Agustin, Iba, Zambales, 1,034 sq.m., P 1,130,500.00

PANGASINAN (CABANATUAN)

Res'l H&L - Mabini St, Brgy Villanueva, Bautista, Pangasinan, P485,900.00

Res'l H&L - Lot 3&4 Subd. Rd. Brgy. Diaz, Bautista, Pangasinan, 889 sq.m., P244,350.00

Res'l H&L - Lot 5 Brgy. Rd., Macayo, Alcala, Pangasinan, 296 sq.m., P450,000.00

Res'l vacant lot - Lot 5 Blk. 14 Damian Ocampo St., Brgy. Kalikidsur, Cabanatuan, 627sq.m., P125,000.00

ISABELA/CAGAYAN VALLEY

Res'l H&L -Maharlikha Highway, Balzain Dist., Tuguegarao, Cagayan, 678sq.m., P6,568,000.00

Res'l/Agri Vacant lot - Lot 2151-A Cayaba St., Bo. Maligaya, Tumauini, Isabela 2,239sq.m., P671,700.00

Res'l/Agri Vacant lot - Lot 2152 Cayaba St., Bo. Maligaya, Tumauini, Isabela, 1,716sq.m., P514,800.00

BATANGAS

Res'l/ Comm'l w/ 2 storey office bldg - Lot 2141, Prov'l Rd., Bolbok, Batangas City,416 sq.m., P4,031,500.00

NUEVA ECIJA/ZAMBALES

Res'l H&L - Lot 1983-A, Tambac, Amungan Iba, Zambales, 625 sq.m. P315,125.00

BAGUIO

Res'l lot - Quimson Subd. cor Legarda Rd., Baguio City, 1006 sq.m., P29,174,000.00

CALAPAN

Res'l vacant lot - Lot 7 Blk 13, Poblacion 3, Victoria Oriental Mindoro, 358 sq.m., P250,600.00

Res'l H&L - Lot 598 - J-1, Brgy. Tibagin, Municipality of Mamburao, Or. Mindoro, 174 sq.m., P407,360.00

LAPU-LAPU/ MANDAUE

Res'l H&L - Lot 2051-B-1, Brgy. Labogon, Mandaue, 2,500 sq.m., P6,250,000.00

Comm'l office bldg. - Lot 2051-A, Brgy. Labogon, Mandaue, 2,406 sq.m., P6,015,000.00

Res'l vacant lot - L4930-C-14-E Sea Breeze Subd., Brgy. Mactan, Lapu-lapu City, 231 sq.m., P 462,000.00

BACOLOD

Res'l H&L - 5 Flores St., Bgy. Sum-ag Bacolod City, 2,837 sq.m.,P 3,120,700.00

Res'l H&L - L1A Lopez Jaena St. cor. Sta. Ana St., Brgy. 31, Bacolod City, 100 sq.m., P 1,250,000.00

Res'l vacant lot - L110-A Brgy. Lag-asan, Bacolod City, 588 sq.m., P 529,200.00

Res'l vacant lot - Lot 5, Phase I, FCZ Subd. Kabankalan City, Negros Occidental, 349 sq.m., P 593,000.00

ILOILO

Res'l lot - L6560 Lambunao, Iloilo, 3,000 sq.m., P 1,200,000.00

Res'l vacant lot - L4010-E Jinactacan, Jaro, Iloilo City, 550 sq.m.,P 700,000.00

Res'l vacant lot - L7290 Plaga St., Bingawan, Iloilo City, 939 sq.m., P231,000.00

GENERAL SANTOS

Res'l w/ imprv't - L17 B4 Carmela Homes City, Purok 2 Katangawan, Lagao, Gen. Santos City, 201 sq.m., P 310,000.00

Res'l vacant lot - L6 B1 Barrio Marbel Koronadal, South Cotabato, 413sq.m., P800,000.00

BUKIDNON

Res'l lots - Lot 4-P-1, Hindangon, Valencia City,315.00 sq.m., P111,000.00

Res'l lots - Lot 4-P-3, Hindangon, Valencia City, 317 sq.m., P112,000.00

Res'l lots - Lot 4-P-4, Hindangon, Valencia City, 318 sq.m., P 112,000.00

Res'l lots - Lot 4-P-5, Hindangon, Valencia City, 319 sq.m., P 112,000.00

Res'l lots - Lot 4-P-6, Hindangon, Valencia City, 320 sq.m., P 112,000.00

Res'l lots - Lot 4-P-8 , Hindangon, Valencia City, 320 sq.m., P112,000.00

Res'l lots - Lot 4-P-11, Hindangon, Valencia City, 325 sq.m., P 114,000.00

Res'l lots - Lot 4-P-2 Hindangon, Valencia City, 391 sq.m., P 137,000.00

Res'l lots - Lot 4-T, Hindangon, Valencia City, 416 sq.m., P146,000.00

CAGAYAN DE ORO

Comm'l vacant lot - Lot 7 Blk Nazareth, Cagayan de Oro City, 240 sq.m, P1,680,000.00

Comm'l vacant lot - Lot 8 Blk 9 Nazareth, Cagayan de Oro City, 240 sq.m., P1,680,000.00

Comm'l vacant lot - Lot 3 Blk 9 Nazareth, Cagayan de Oro City, 262 sq.m., P2,017,000.00

Other property listings are available upon request.

For Inquiries, please call: Metro Manila: Tess Onda/ Marita Yamson (830-0447) **Luzon:** Dennis Alaoria (811-6647) **Vismin:** Ritchie Yrac (891-3805) **Trunkline:** 817-4906 locals 2285/2292/2319/ 2200/2333 **Fax:** 892-4268 **email:** mtuason@bankcom.com.ph

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the estate of the late Victoria Alfiler-Galeno has been extrajudicially settled by her heir per Doc.#128, Page #26, Book#XVII, Series of 2004 before Notary Public Atty. Alfredo R. Datingaling of Manila (PDI-Oct. 24, 31, Nov. 7, 2004)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Lilia Dela Cruz & Claudine Dela Cruz Villarta were extrajudicially settled among their heirs as per Doc. # 241 ; Page # 66; Book# LIX; Series of 2004 before Notary Public Fernando Collantes of the City of Manila. (PDI - October 24, 31 & Nov. 7, 2004)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late TERESITO P. BOBADILLA was extrajudicially settled among his heirs as per Doc 183, Page 38, Book XLI, Series of 2004 before Notary Public Alfonso Lacap of Pasig City. (PDI-Oct. 24, 31, & Nov. 7, 2004)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late LEO J. SANTOS was extrajudicially settled and partitioned between the heirs as per Doc. No. 381, Page No. 78, Book No. 122, Series 2004 before Notary Public Juanito I. Vitug of Manila.
PDI-Oct. 10, 17 & 24, 2004

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41ST PMAP ANNUAL CONFERENCE
Shown are Creative Keynote Presentation speakers Jim Paredes (left) and Emily Abrera (3rd from left) with PMAP vice-president and Conference chair Grace Abella-Zata, and PMAP president Oscar L. Contreras, Jr., FPM (right) during the 41st Annual Conference of the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP) held last Sept. 29 to Oct. 1 at the CAP-John Hay Trade and Cultural Center in Baguio City.

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1. Male not more than 30 yrs old.
2. College level.
3. Willing to get his hands dirty.
4. Good Communication Skills.
5. Driver's License is a plus but not required.

FORKLIFT OPERATOR
1. At least 2 years experience in Forklift Operation.
2. For bottle products.
3. With valid driver's license.

Visit personally at:

Lot 38-A Warehouse 1,
Malunggay Rd., FTI Complex,
Taguig, Metro Manila.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Ms Corazon Gaudinez is hereby notified of her overdue payments for the purchase of Renaissance 3000 Unit 2403-A. She is hereby given a grace period of forty five (45) days from publication of this notice within which to pay the sum of P17,488,238.17 inclusive of principal and surcharges, to Sunrise Properties Corporation at the 6/F Renaissance Tower D, Meralco Ave., Pasig City. Failure to pay the above amounts shall result in the cancellation of the Contract to Sell dated Dec. 29, 1995 by Sunrise Prop. Corp.

October 19, 2004

CORAZON GAUDINEZ / PHILIP MICHAEL GAUDINEZ
#9047 Banuyo St., San Antonio Village
Makati City

Madam/Sir:

Notice is hereby given at the request of SUNRISE PROPERTIES CORPORATION with Contract to Sell dated December 29, 1995 between Corazon Gaudinez / Philip Michael Gaudinez ("Purchaser") and Sunrise Properties Corporation ("Owner") that the afore-described Contract to Sell is CANCELLED for failure on the part of Corazon Gaudinez / Philip Michael Gaudinez to pay the lumpsum balance of the agreed purchase price of a Condominium.

Notwithstanding the above, the Purchaser is given a period of forty five (45) days within which to pay the balance of the purchase price, inclusive of surcharges, the computation of which is attached hereto. Should the Purchaser fail to pay the balance within such period, the cancellation of the Contract to Sell is deemed effective upon expiration of such period without need of further notice.

Very truly yours,

SUBSCRIBED and SWORN to before me this 21 Oct. 2004 at Quezon City exhibiting his/her resident no ____ issued on ____ at ____

Atty Hector B Centen
Notary Public
PTR No 49685837
Date Issued Jan 5, 2004
Issued at Quezon City
Valid until Dec 31, 2004

Doc No 65
Page No 13
Book No 484-I
Series of 2004
(PDI-Oct 24 2004)

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PASIG

small Investment, BIG Returns.

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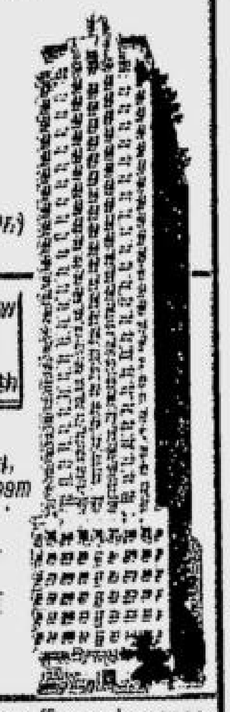

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*Bachelor of Arts
Major in: Political Science, English, Economics, Public Administration
*Bachelor of Elementary Education (BEEd)
*Bachelor of Secondary Education (BSEd)
Major in: Mathematics, Filipino, English
Bachelor of Science in Secretarial Administration (BSSA)
Bachelor of Science in Accountancy (BSA)
*Bachelor of Science in Commerce
Major in: Management Accounting, Marketing, Economics, Management

Bachelor of Science in Computer Science (BSCS)
Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering (BSCoE)
Bachelor of Science in Information Technology (BSIT)
Bachelor of Science in Information Management (BSIM)
Bachelor of Science in Hotel and Restaurant Management (BSHRM)
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SPACE FOR LEASE
LONG TERM
2 Storey – Commercial Space along Gil Fernando Avenue formerly Angel Tuazon (Good for Bar & Rest.)
Area: G/F: 765 sqm
S/F: 294 sqm
with 3 phase transformer & single phase
with 3 telephone lines
Price: Php100.00 per sqm
Contact # 0917-8274096
Contact Person: Ms. Jo

COMMERCIAL/ RESIDENTIAL

MANILA

Nr. Trabaho mrkt Sampaloc 7497119 09178906317

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MANDALUYONG

237 sqm Up & Down 3BR 2T&B 4 Car Grge Loc. at 25 Coronado Subd. Makaturing St. Coronado Subd. Mand. City 25T / mo. 2 mos. dep. 1mo advance pls. call at 531-7229 / 5 3 2 - 5 7 - 1 8

MARIKINA

VISTA VALLEY
3BR 2TB 1Garage
Call Jo 941-3237

PARANAQUE

Bicutan AEPRK 5BR 3TB 2MR 2 GRG 240LA 190FA 2F 19T/MO BONG 09178571089

PASAY

2Sty 2BR Villaruel Call Arnel 8326257 / 8297419

PASIG

VV2 3-Spool 50T 6821676

QUEZON CITY

Nr Mnd Av 4br 2b Mr Grg P10T 929-0035 • 0917-8470918

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

BNew Condo Nr D'Fort 2BR wPkg outd amenites 10T/mo neg 0916-4617642, 628 2665 Mon

Makati-Legaspi Vill 2BR Pkg unf 16T T-09167855507

NEW STUDIO / Conf / 2BR 6.5Tup 1672 Dian St. Mkti 843-9418-0918 9390355 Roso

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

CONDO/TWNHSE

Parklane, Salcedo Vill. 2 Bdrms FF • 0917-8412841

MANILA

STA. ANA VILLAS 4BR/5T&B 3 STOREY 2 CAR GARAGE T-8184238/8127741 Juliet

PASIG

PACIFIC PL. ORTIGAS CTR 100SQM 2BR2TB s-furn 1 prkg RFO 11/01 Call 722-9294/0353 No Brokers.

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QUEZON CITY

BRAND NEW 3BR maids rm 3TB 116sqm 1st St cor. Gilmore Ave. New Mla. QC 28K Violy/ Tintin 5277616

SAN JUAN

Ghills FF Stu P11T 929-9835

VARIOUS AREAS

40r nr Mkt Med 0917-5405281

KALOOCAN

2BR Marble Kitchen Toilet 107 P. Alvarez St. 655-6349

LAS PINAS

New 2br Grgo 6T 532-4634

MAKATI

1&2BR W/GARAGE STRONG WATER 8902561 8902894

2Sty APT FOR RENT 2BR1TB Comn Garage 1439 Montojo St Makati near Pasong Tamo 11K/mo Tel# 0927-5162684 / 826-9633 look for Jay/Pinky

5.5T 1BR APT 09173982697

P15T 3792 Mascardo St. Mkti Call 8223972 Riza/Leny

Unit 4 Rent Nr. Shopwise P.Tamo Mkti 0917-8735804 747-5249 640-0331 D Ludgo

VRY NCE 2ROOM 1TB GARGE CL 8820203 09178318551

MANILA

Apartment 4500-15000 Bed-space 1500 Ape Joy 5610960 0 9 2 0 4 1 3 6 4 1 2

CONDO/APT w/grge 5636296

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

APARTMENT

MANILA

RUSH 3BR Big grge 7152251

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UP & ON HWAYHILS 8212091

PASIG

2BR 633-1040 Capitol Tota

2STRY 2BR with Carport P11T /mo Call 926-5264 18-C Philam Rd Bo. Kapitolyo

QUEZON CITY

2BR 14AVE CUBAO 7163248

3B Paraluman Nr C'wealth 3br, 2t&b, Md Qtrs Scrnd, w/Tel & Parking 927-2966 • 927-5727

Fairview QC Thse 3BR 2TB 9T 936-9282 • 952-4254

PROJ.4 2BR 439-0108 Nick

New Studio Type 1BR TB Sala Kitchen 58 Yale 912-2664

Up & Down 2br 2tb w/Grge P10K/mo. Call 367-8895

West Ave. 11T Behind West Walk 2BR 2TB Parkng Tel.

SAN JUAN

531-9206 Nr. Sch 7T 1Flr Blumentritt St., San Juan

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Chin. Gen area 7118679

El Grande Inn, BF, Pque El Grande Ave 8257524

•FURNISH PASAY 8872865•

Kamias Rd 250 / Day / 4267157

Kamias Rd 3.5T Nice 426-7157

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Mkti nr Ayala P1T Ldy 7257342

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SSHWAY West Cupang grge for truck/bus/wrehse 09175332613

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N. Domingo, San Juan Call Mely 723-4623 to 25 ofc hrs

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PARANAQUE

354 Aguirre BF Sucat Call 09209602511 9274236

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REALTORS/SEMINAR

Brokers Review 4382966

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3733901 loc. 8220/8302/8303

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CARS

FORD

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TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

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P600/L3 9136710 / 4333682

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CAR LOAN

CARS FOR RENT

STAREX MB100 HIACE 8277135

VANS & MATIC CARS 7297370

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50% Cotton; 50% Polyester
150 Thread Count
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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation and Communications
CIVIL AERONAUTICS BOARD
OLD MIA ROAD, PASAY CITY
METRO MANILA

IN RE: APPLICATION FOR AUTHORITY TO OPERATE AS AN INTERNATIONAL AIRFREIGHT FORWARDER

ELAION CORPORATION, Applicant.

CAB CASE NO. 25275

NOTICE OF HEARING

Pursuant to the provisions of R.A. 776, as amended, notice is hereby given that ELAION CORPORATION has filed with the Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) an application for Authority to Operate as an International Airfreight Forwarder. The initial hearing of the above entitled case will be held on 10 November 2004 at 2:00 P.M. at the Conference Room of the CAB, Old MIA Road, Pasay City, Metro Manila before the undersigned Hearing Officer, at which hearing the applicant shall present evidence.

The applicant is hereby required to have this Notice of Hearing published at least once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation, or that copies thereof and the application itself be sent to existing CAB certified airfreight forwarders either by personal service or by registered mail with return card at least three (3) days before the scheduled hearing.

Parties opposed to the granting of the application must file their written opposition on or before the date of the hearing, furnishing a copy of the same to the applicant, and appear at the hearing with such evidence as may be proper under the premises. Failure on the part of any interested party to file its opposition on time and appear at the hearing shall be construed as a waiver of its right to be heard and the Civil Aeronautics Board shall proceed to hear and decide this application on its merit.

Let a copy of the application and this Notice be posted at the CAB Bulletin Board beginning today.

18 October 2004
Pasay City, Philippines

(Sgd.) MANUEL A. MORENTE, JR.
Chief, Legal and Enforcement Division

(PDI--Oct. 24, 2004)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby; given that MAECCA INTERNATIONALLE CORPORATION with postal address at 3-F Castillo St., Brgy. Marilag Proj. 4, Quezon City has an application with POEA as a land-based agency.

The following are the Incorporators/Officers of the Corporation:

1) Belinda D. Catacutan - Chairman & CEO
2) Benito D. Catacutan Jr. - President
3) Benilda Catacutan Yap - VP-Marketing & Treasurer
4) Bernard D. Catacutan - VP-Operation
5) Elvira D. Catacutan - VP-Internal Affair

(PDI - Oct. 24, 2004)

INVITATION TO BID "AS IS WHERE IS"
Damaged Motor Vehicles
1995 Mitsubishi Lancer / UFD-532
1995 Nissan Bluebird Altima / UBJ-898
1999 Honda Civic / WJU-101
2004 Ford Everest Wagon / XMP-244
For particulars, call Philam Ins. Co., Inc./ Dick Cariño. Tel. # 878-54-57

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Toyco U Drive w/ Driver All Kinds Cars Van Revo Dly. Wk.Mo. Rental 8023021-22

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1.5% Fast Car Loan 3677523/24

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1.5% Fast Car Loan 6560140

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3732081-82

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1.5% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

•1HR Fast Car Loan 7125202•

•1HR Fast Car Loan 7125202•

2% w/o Taking Car 7202780

2% w/o taking car 7880183-84

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

CAR LOAN

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/out taking car 6567685

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

BUY/SELL

CAP/ PRUD PLANS 09177939632

FULLY PD EDUCATION PLANS GIE 780-0106 • 0917-7939632

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

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ELITE PIANO CENTER
Almost New: TERMS-7213124

Nursing symposium

HEALTHCARE Coalition Institute (HCI), a US-based entity that conducts continuing medical education seminars for healthcare professionals, together with NIR Placement Center Inc, a POEA-licensed land-based placement agency in the Philippines, have organized the Philippine leg of the symposium entitled "Trends, Myths and Facts of Nursing Employment in the US". It will be held on Friday, Nov. 5, at the newly-opened Hyatt Hotel and Casino Manila (Pedro Gil corner M.H. del Pilar, Malate, Manila. There will be two (2) sessions per day, morning (8 a.m. to 12 p.m.) and afternoon (1 p.m. to 5 p.m.) sessions, to enable more participants to attend. We expect more than a thousand participants to attend the 2-day event. Concerned government agencies, nursing school owners, nursing faculty, and nurses' associations/organizations are also strongly urged to attend this to initiate and further develop/upgrade their respective training programs in making our nurses globally competitive. Taking a pro-active stance is of utmost importance if we are to maintain our lead as the preferred source of manpower for nursing personnel vacancies in the US. Finally, this forum aims to correct misconceptions and half-truths being bandied around in the tri-media, including those in the Internet. For reservations, inquiries and other concerns, contact details are as follows: NIR Placement Center, Inc., Unit 1, Roces Centre Bldg., 127 Don Alejandro Roces Avenue, 1103 Quezon City. Office Nos.: (02) 416-9025, 416-9026 (9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Monday to Friday); Mobile phones: (0916) 780-5400 / (0916) 267-4205 ; E-mail: nir_placement_ctr@yahoo.com.

Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission
2/F Engineering Building, MWSS Compound
Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City
Telephone Nos. +632 9265233; +632 4333446
Telefax Nos. +632 9265234; +632 4333444

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC) and Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA), through its Inter-Agency Bids and Awards Committee (IABAC), is inviting boat repair establishments/services provider to apply for eligibility and to bid for the repair of one Ecolmare Grancevola Boat within 30 calendar days with Approved Budget for the Contract amounting to Nine Hundred Thirty Four Thousand Three Hundred Sixty Two Pesos (Php 934, 362.00).

All interested bidders shall secure a complete set of eligibility and bid documents at the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission, 2/F MWSS Engineering Building, Diliman, Quezon City, Telephone Numbers (02) 4333444 / (02) 4333446 upon submission of a Letter of Intent and payment of a non-refundable fee of Nine Thousand Pesos (Php 9,000.00).

Site Inspection and Pre-Bidding Conference shall be on **November 9, 2004, 9:00 AM** at the MMDA Waterways Group Area within Malacañang Complex.

Interested bidders are required to submit at the same time their accomplished eligibility documents in sealed envelope and technical and financial bid proposals in a separate sealed envelope. The envelope containing the bid proposals shall be kept in a sealed box which shall not be opened until the completion of the eligibility check, and the list for eligible bidders has been finalized. Only bids of eligible bidders shall be opened on the date of bid opening. The bids of ineligible bidders shall be returned unopened.

The two (2) envelopes containing the accomplished eligibility documents and bid proposal shall be submitted to the PRRC not later than **22 November 2004** at exactly 12:00 noon. Late submissions shall not be accepted. The date of bid opening shall be announced later.

The bidders shall submit together with the eligibility documents a notarized sworn statement stating all their existing boat repair contracts as of date of bidding, including newly awarded but not yet started contracts with the corresponding contract amount. The bidders shall be evaluated based on their financial capacity, technical capability and experience. The list of other required documents for submissions shall be included in the bid documents.

All particulars relative to Eligibility, Bid Evaluation and Award of Contract shall be governed by R.A. No. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR). The IABAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason whatsoever, waive minor informalities, or accept such bids which shall be the most advantageous to the government. The decision of the IABAC shall be final and binding upon approval of the PRRC Board of Commissioners.

For further information, please contact the BAC Secretariat, c/o Ms. Amelita V. Gamay at Telephone Numbers 9265234 and 4333447.

(Sgd.) **BINGLE H.B. GUTIERREZ**
Executive Director
Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission

(Sgd.) **BAYANI F. FERNANDO**
Chairman
Metropolitan Manila Development Authority

(PDI - Oct. 24 & 31, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Negros Oriental
City of Bayawan
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The City Government of Bayawan thru its BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE invites interested suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply and delivery of the following items:

BID NO.	PR NO.	ITEMS	ABC	SOURCE OF FUNDS	DATE/TIME	
					Pre-bid Conference	Deadline/Opening Of Bids
04-185	Various	Construction Materials for Various Projects	4,428,411.00	General Fund	2.00 PM, 25Oct2004	10:30 AM, 08Nov2004
04-186	04-2052	Oil and Lubricants for Dump Trucks and Heavy Equipment	1,883,200 00	General Fund	2.00 PM, 25Oct2004	10.30 AM, 08Nov2004
04-187	04-1393	Reconditioned Dump Truk - 6 wheelers, Japan Surplus	500,000 00	General Fund	2.00 PM, 25Oct2004	10.30 AM, 08Nov2004
04-188	04-2087	Office Equipment, Furniture & Fixtures, IT equipment, Other Equipment, Service Vehicle and Motorcycle	887,100.00	General Fund	2.00 PM, 25Oct2004	10.30 AM, 08Nov2004
04-189	04-2049	Hematocrit Centrifuge and Accessories, Dental Equipment and 2 Air-conditioning units (2Hp)	458,350 00	General Fund	2.00 PM, 25Oct2004	10:30 AM, 08Nov2004
04-190	Various	Medicines and Medical Supplies for City Health Office	1,372,047.00	General Fund	2.00 PM, 25Oct2004	10:30 AM, 08Nov2004
04-191	04-1317	3-Cylinder 12-Valve Engine for Suzuki Easy Ride	50,000 00	General Fund	2.00 PM, 25Oct2004	10.30 AM, 08Nov2004

Place of Delivery FOB BAYAWAN CITY WAREHOUSE. Period of Delivery 12 Calendar Days upon receipt of Purchase Order. Warranty Required 3 months for supplies, 1 year for equipment. Retention money or special bank guarantee equivalent to 10% of contract price will be withheld to cover such warranty obligation.

In order to qualify for participation in the public bidding, the bidders should conform to all the eligibility criteria as prescribed under Section 23 of IRR-A of Republic Act No. 9184.

Bid documents shall be available at the BAC Office, Annex Building Sports Complex Building, LGU Bayawan City starting October 20, 2004 upon payment of prescribed non-refundable fee.

Bidders shall drop their duly accomplished eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals in two separate envelopes in the bid boxes at the BAC Office, Bayawan City on or before the deadline of submission of bids.

All particulars relative to eligibility process, opening and evaluation of bids, post-qualification and award of contract shall be governed by the applicable provisions of RA. 9184.

The City of Bayawan reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defects or formality therein and to accept bids considered responsive and most advantageous to the government.

Details of bid items are posted at the official website of the City of Bayawan, the www.bayawancity.gov.ph, the G-EPS, and at the BAC Bulletin Boards, LGU Bayawan City. For more information, please contact the BAC Secretariat at Telephone Numbers (035) 531-0638 and 531-0020 local 107.

(Sgd) PANCHO F. VILLASIS
City Administrator, Chairman, BAC

(PDI– Oct. 17 & 24, 2004)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
BUREAU OF CUSTOMS
MANILA

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bureau of Customs through the Bids and Awards Committee invites local bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid who are:

1. Duly licensed Filipino citizens/sole proprietorship;
2. Partnerships duly organized under the laws of the Philippines of which at least sixty percent (60%) of the interest belongs to citizens of the Philippines;
3. Corporations duly organized under the laws of the Philippines, and of which at least sixty percent (60%) of the outstanding capital stock belongs to citizens of the Philippines;
4. Manufacturers, suppliers and/or distributors forming themselves into a joint venture, i.e. a group of two (2) or more manufacturers, suppliers and/or distributors that intend to be jointly and severally responsible or liable for a particular contract: Provided, however, that Filipino ownership or interest of the joint venture concerned shall be at least sixty percent (60%); or
5. Cooperative duly registered with the Cooperatives Development Authority (CDA).

The local bidders for Lot A to F **(for desktop and mobile computers only)** should have a DTI Accreditation Certificate of a minimum **"5 Star Data Processing Equipment Rating"** for the current year.

The manufacturer of the brand of equipment being proposed for all the lots must have an ISO Certification.

The bid shall be on a **per lot basis.** Any bid for any particular lot with incomplete proposal shall be rejected outright.

Lot	Quantity	Item Package	Approved Budget (In pesos)
A	400	Branded New Desktop Computers (Workstation)	26,000,000.00
B	100	Branded New Desktop Computers (High End)	7,500,000.00
C	10	Branded New Mobile Computers (10.6" LCD)	1,400,000.00
D	10	Branded New Mobile Computers (12.1" LCD)	1,400,000.00
E	2	Branded New Computer Servers (Back-up)	5,500,000.00
F	6	Branded New Computer Servers (Email)	4,800,000.00
G	2 3 3 3 10	4-Port Ethernet (Replacement part for Cisco 3600) 4-Port ASYN/SYN (Replacement part for Cisco 2600) 8-Port ASYN/SYN (Replacement part for Cisco 3600) Routers 10/100 Switch	360,000.00 234,000.00 432,000.00 540,000.00 300,000.00
H	4 500	UPS - 10KVA UPS 500VA	1,200,000.00 3,000,000.00
I	4 4	APC Symetra Power Module APC Symetra Battery Pack	500,000.00 100,000.00
J	75 31 23 4	Dot Matrix Printer Desk Jet Printer Laser Jet Printer Laser Jet Printer (Colored)	1,125,000.00 403,000.00 736,000.00 520,000.00
K	1	Hardware-based Firewall	1,600,000.00
L	3	Projector	600,000.00
M	2 3 1	3HP Window Type Aircon 3HP Split Type Aircon 3 Tonner Split Type	80,000.00 180,000.00 100,000.00
N	1 3	165 KVA Generator 75KVA Generator	1,700,000.00 2,600,000.00
		TOTAL	**62,910,000:00**

Approved budget for the total contract: PhP 62,910,000.00 sourced from the BOC approved budget for 2003.

The prospective bidder may submit its Letter of Intent and buy Bid documents during office hours until October 26, 2004 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **one tenth of one percent** (.001) of the approved budget for each lot at BAC Secretariat, General Services Division, Bureau of Customs, Port Area, Manila. Look for Ms. Racquel De Jesus, designated BAC Secretariat.

Criteria for eligibility check and evaluation of bids shall be on a non-discretionary **"pass/fail"** basis. RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations shall govern the eligibility screening of bidders, evaluation of bids, post-qualification and awarding of contract.

The pre-bid conference for **Lot M to N** shall be held on **October 27, 2004, 9:00 am-11:00 am** at Multi-Purpose Room, 3rd Floor, CRIC Bldg., Bureau of Customs, Port Area, Manila. The pre-bid conference for **Lot A to L** shall be held at the same date and place at **1:00 pm.**

The envelopes for Eligibility Requirements, Technical and Financial Bid for **Lot A to L** shall be submitted to the BAC Secretariat on **November 9, 2004** at 9:00 am at Multi-Purpose Room, 3rd Floor, CRIC Bldg., Bureau of Customs, Port Area, Manila. Opening of bids shall be on the same date and place at 9:30 am. For **Lot M to N**, all above-mentioned envelopes shall be submitted on **November 10, 2004** at same place at 9:00 am. Opening of bids shall be on same date and place at 9:30 am. **LATE BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

BOC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or any part thereof, to waive any informality or minor defect, and to accept the offer most advantageous to the Government.

BOC shall in no case be held responsible or liable for any and all costs associated with the bidder's participation in the bidding process regardless of its results.

(Sgd.) Atty. **ROBERTO D. GEOTINA**
Deputy Commissioner, IAG
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

Note: **Clarificatory announcement on previously published Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid dated October 11, 18 and 20, 2004.**

(PDI – October 24, 2004)

The Harry Pound Company

SUCCESS ESSENTIALS FOR MANAGERS AND SUPERVISORS

The MEGA EVENT of the year that will zero in on the 'New Essentials' in leading and managing for better efficiency and productivity in today's fast moving, rapidly changing business environment.

Cecille Aylion, MBA
Sought After Speaker,
Author & Success Seminar Leader

BE THERE...
Mix with the Country's Leaders!
Make it a date:
Friday, October 29, 2004
(from 8:30am to 5:30pm)
At the Westin Philippine Plaza, Manila

Participants will also get a Mega Dose of Motivation & Inspiration through the Special Participation of Master Motivator, ***"Mr. Enthusiasm"*** himself, **Mr. Harry D. Pound** and from the USA on video, **Mr. John Foppe**, one of the world's Greatest and Youngest Inspirational Speakers.

Harry D. Pound John Foppe

3 RATES TO CHOOSE FROM:
P1,999 per seat Until September 15, 2004 only
P2,699 per seat Starting September 27, 2004
P2,999 per seat Starting October 15, 2004

PLUS!
Our Major SPONSORS will give away OVER ONE MILLION PESOS worth of Prizes!

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- An MBA Software designed to Improve Business Productivity from **Mannasoft Tech. Corp.**
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As always, Time is of the essence... **REGISTER NOW!**
CALL HARRY'S ANGELS 404-2753, 526-1909, 523-1718
Cell No.:0917-327-7271, Email: GetSuccessNow@HarryPound.com

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Jerry Liao's POWERTIPS
EXTENDING THE LIMITS OF KNOWLEDGE

Harnessing the Power of Microsoft Office

PRESENTED BY
Infocraft · Philippine Daily Inquirer · GMA

You probably know the basics of Microsoft Office applications, but can you prepare professional looking documents with Microsoft Office Word, create effective worksheets with Microsoft Office Excel and attention grabbing presentations with Microsoft Office PowerPoint that make you stand out?

Now you can! With this seminar, learn to work faster, better and more efficiently by harnessing the power, capabilities and magic of Microsoft Office applications.

The Sessions: October 25, 2004, Isla Ballroom, Edsa-Shangri-La Hotel

Morning Session for Faculty and Students
7:30 am- 12:00 nn
Academe Rate: P495

Afternoon Session for Business Community
12:30 pm - 5:00 pm
Ticket Price: P995

Present valid ID to avail of special academe rates. Tickets are available at all SM TicketNet outlets. TICKETNET

The Speaker
Jerry Liao has been in the I.T. industry for the past 22 years as an I.T. and media practitioner. A certified Microsoft Office specialist, he has interviewed I.T. luminaries like Microsoft CEO Bill Gates, Sun CEO Scott McNealy, and Intel CEO Craig Barrett, among others.

Participants will receive a certificate of attendance from Microsoft. Special prizes also await lucky participants!

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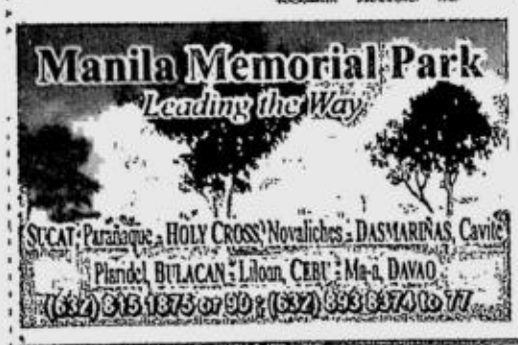

OBITUARIES

Memorials Plus

Memorial Services Made More Memorable.

Manila Memorial Park: The Plus Factor

Bayani San Diego Jr.

Ever the pioneer and innovator in the industry, the **Manila Memorial Park** once again leads the way with its new offering: the **Memorials Plus**. The first and largest memorial park in the country is now making its vast experience and resources in the field available to its loyal patrons, by making "memorial services more memorable and stress-free."

In this most emotional and volatile time in their lives, Park patrons will be allowed to relax and focus on the more important facets of the memorial service because the Park will take care of all the nitty-gritty details.

These details, after all, shouldn't take another second of their precious time.

As part of a special package, **Memorials Plus** covers such thoughtful amenities and services as: catering, flowers, balloons, photo and video coverage, music, interment band, and horse-drawn carriage.

Memorials Plus seeks to provide whatever poignant detail that would "make an interment or cremation ceremony truly unforgettable."

Memorials Plus can also be availed of for death anniversaries, birthdays, 9-day and 40-day commemorations, and other special dates.

Without a doubt, **Manila Memorial Park**, after 40 success-filled and award-winning years in the industry, has earned a well-deserved reputation for excellence in terms of service and customer satisfaction.

For more information and for arrangements, please get in touch with any of the **Park's Memorial Servicing Officers.** Call: **893-8370 or 8938374 to 77 loc. 228**

I will always thank the Lord
I will never stop praising Him;
I will praise Him for what He has done.
Psalm 34:1

Fung Me Wa

Peacefully joined her Creator and her loving husband ***Kuan Fong*** *on October 23, 2004 at the age of 80.*

Her loving children **Robert** and **Yvonne**, **Helen** and **Castor Quan**, **Joseph** and **Jane**, **Choleng** and **Sin Cho Si** (†); her ever loving grandchildren **Kelvin** and **Reah**, **Natalie**, **Jeremy**, **Sherwin**, **Karen**, **Mary**, **Dennis**, **Krystle**, **Joanne**, **Brian**, **Jonathan**, **Melody**, **Ryan** and **Lincoln**; her great grandchildren **Karlos** and **Yñigo**. Relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, October 27, 2004 at the Chinese Cemetery after the 8:30 a.m. service.

DOMINGO "GING" M. GOMEZ

Peacefully joined his Creator on October 22, 2004 at the age of 84.

His loving wife **ELOISA P. HIZON**; children and children-in-law **Eriberto** and **Wilhelmina, Dom Martin de Jesus, OSB, Eloisa "Sita," Erlinda** and **Jason**; grandchildren **Eriberto III, Michael, Eloisa Consuelo, Elaiza, Gabrielle** and **Jonathan**; brothers and sisters, request the pious readers to pray for the repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the family residence in **VILLA ELOISA**, San Agustin, San Fernando, Pampanga.

Interment will be on Tuesday, October 26, 2004 at the Good Shepherd Memorial Park after the 9:00 A.M. Mass at the Metropolitan Cathedral, San Fernando, Pampanga.

In Lieu of flowers, donations to the Transfiguration Foundation, Inc., Malaybalay, Bukidnon will be greatly appreciated.

Col. Federico L. Salcedo (Ret.)

On your 40th day of death

Thank you Ling for your devotion and dedication your endless protection, love and guidance.
We honor and celebrate your service to your country – generosity and integrity as a legacy to your family and most of all for touching our lives on earth.
We adore you and miss you so much.

Your (Hija) **Josie** - children: **Joffre & Linda, Ricky Salvador Jr.** (†), **Rory & Pinky, Alex & Grace, Marisol & Steven Franklin.**

Grandchildren: **Coco & Maridel, Richie & Geh, Peewee & Ace, Ana, Erika, Stevie, Derick, Franz, Franco, Bingo, Princess** and **Fritz.**

Great-grandchildren: **Mae-Mae, Chesca, Daphne, Lance** and **Mitzi.**

We wish to express our deepest appreciation to all of you our friends near and far, who sent flowers, mass cards, letters of sympathy, spent precious time with us, and express in many other ways your love, concern and support during our time of sorrow.

(**Mary the Queen's Church**
Little Baguio, San Juan ..... 7:15 p.m.)

"And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever..."
Psalm 23:6

In Memory

of a loving wife, mother & grandmother

SONIA RODELAS RUEDA

on her 1st Death Anniversary
on October 25, 2004

She died on a car accident along Georges Basin, New South Wales

Masses will be offered on October 25, 2004 at the following churches:

1. **St. John Vianney Church** ..... 7:00 am
   Greenacre Parish, Greenacre, NSW, Australia
2. **St. Aidan Church** ..... 7:00 am
   Doonside, Blacktown, NSW, Australia
3. **St. Joseph's Cathedral** ..... 6:00 am
   San Jose City, Nueva Ecija
4. **St. Paul the Apostle Parish** ..... 7:00 am
   Mother Ignacia Avenue, Q.C.
5. **St. Peter's Parish** ..... 6:00 am
   Commonwealth Ave., Q.C.
6. **Oblate of the Apostles of Two Hearts** ..... 6:00 am
   Kita-Kita, San Jose City, Nueva Ecija
7. **Mary Help of Christians** ..... 6:00 am
   Malasin, San Jose City, Nueva Ecija
8. **St. Ignatius Martyr Church** ..... 9:00 am
   Long Beach, New York, USA
9. **Our Lady of Sorrows** ..... 9:00 am
   Queens, New York City, USA
10. **Sacred Heart League Memorial Mass**
    Charleston, South Carolina

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring...

INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:

❶ Copy of Death Certificate

❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS and bank-to-bank payments

ALBERTO P. IDIOMA

of Mandaluyong City and Daet, Camarines Norte

Peacefully joined his Creator, his loving wife Herminia on October 19, 2004 at the age of 70.

His loving children **Ace & Sonia, Teddy & Canet, Mike & Timi, Manny & Windy, Herman & Binky, Boyet & Nina**; grandchildren **Jomari, Juaning, Alvee, Martha, Neci Anne, Maria Sofia, Andrea Teresa, Jose Elian, Tobi** and **Vincent** will miss him dearly.

His remains will be at:
– Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe Chapel D, October 20 – October 22
– San Felipe Neri Parish Mortuary, October 23 – 26.

Cremation will be on October 26, 12 noon at Loyola, Guadalupe after 9:30 a.m. Mass at San Felipe Neri Parish.

His ashes will be brought to:
– San Martin de Porres Home for Street Children, San Pablo City on October 27, 8:00 am
– St. John the Baptist Church, Daet, Camarines Norte on October 27 – October 29.

Necrological services at Camarines Norte Provincial Capitol at 9:00 a.m. October 28, 2004.

TRIGESIMO ANIVERSARIO
del fallecimiento de

Excmo. Sr. D. ANTONIO V. ROCHA

Ocurrido el 25 de Octubre de 1974

Se celebraran misas por el eterno descanso de su alma en las siguientes iglesias el lunes, 25 de Octubre.

Iglesia de San Agustin, *Intramuros*	6:30 A.M.
Nstra. Señora de Guia Parish - *Ermita*	6:30 A.M.
Basilica de la Immaculada *Concepcion, Intramuros*	7:30 A.M.
Santuario de San Antonio, *Forbes Park*	6:15 A.M.
St. James the Great, *Ayala Alabang*	6:20 A.M.
Iglesia de Malate	6:00 A.M.
Iglesia de St. Francis, *Mandaluyong*	6:30 A.M.
Iglesia de San Antonio, *V.O.T. Sampaloc*	6:15 A.M.
Iglesia de Lourdes, *Quezon City*	7:30 A.M.

Se ruega a cuantos la conocieron ofrezcan un piadoso responso por el eterno descanso de su alma.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave us His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have Everlasting life."

— John 3:16

The Board of Directors, Management and Staff of
ALHEED INTERNATIONAL
condole with the family of

JOSE (MANG JOE) C. AGUILAR

who passed away in the Grace of the Lord on October 20, 2004.at the age of 71.

His children **Josefina, John & Tess, Joel & Chat**; grandchildren **Dianne Marie, John Joseph, Marion Joan, Clarisse Mary Joy** and sister **Binay Damaso**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz in Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, October 26, 2004 at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City, after the 9:00 a.m. memorial mass.

BENJAMIN CAYABA REYES

(21 December 1943 – 21 October 2004)

of Cauayan, Isabela

Former Delegate to the 1971 Constitutional Convention from the Lone District of Isabela

Joined his Creator at the age of 60.

Husband of Elena Leilani Gella Reyes; Father of Sara, Peter (†), BJ and Amanda.

We, his family, brothers, sisters, in-laws, nephews and nieces request prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, 27 October 2004 after the 10:00 am Mass.

In Loving Memory
on the Fourth Death Anniversary of

ARCH'T. EDUARDO "NED" GONZALEZ RAMOS

(July 29, 1948 – October 24, 2000)

Holy Masses will be offered in the following churches today, October 24, 2004:

Sanctuario de San Antonio, McKinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati City	6:00 PM
Sanctuario de San Jose, Greenhills, Mandaluyong City	6:00 PM
Mary the Queen Parish, Greenhills, San Juan	6:00 PM
Archdiocesan Shrine of the Divine Mercy, Maysilo Street, Mandaluyong City	7:00 AM
San Roque Parish Church, Barangka, Mandaluyong City	6:00 AM
Parish of San Felipe Neri, Mandaluyong City	6:00 AM

Request the pious readers, relatives and friends to pray for the eternal repose of his soul

With all our love,
MARITA, JET & BILLIE

JOCELYN MEDINA LACANLALE

(June 14, 1955 – October 21, 2004)

Peacefully returned to her Creator on 21 October 2004.

Kindly join in prayer husband **Gerry**; children **Jennilyn** and **Joefferson**; parents **Cenon, Jr.** and **Pilar Medina**; parents-in-law **Leonardo** (†) and **Romana** (†) **Lacanlale**; sister **Celle**; brothers **Rick** and **Edwin**; brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law; uncles and aunts; uncles-in-law and aunts-in-law; other relatives and friends for her eternal peace.

Her mortal remains lie in state at the Holy Mary Memorial Chapel D, Holy Mary Memorial Park, Angeles City.

Interment will be on Thursday, 28 October 2004 after the 3:00 p.m. Holy Mass.

CLASSIFIEDS

PHILIPINE INTERNATIONAL TRADING CORPORATION

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY

The Philippine International Trading Corporation (PITC) invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and submit proposal for the following services:

NATIONWIDE MARKETING & DISTRIBUTION OF PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS

Applicants must meet all the following qualifications:

1. Licensed BFAD Drug Importer and Drug Distributor
2. Extensive experience in the pharmaceutical industry (multinational & local companies.
3. With at least three years experience in nationwide multinational and local pharmaceutical distribution.
4. With existing distribution network/centers nationwide
5. Capable of managing/expanding retail outlets nationwide
6. Computerized Invoicing/Warehousing/Inventory management systems
7. With Marketing/Advertising capabilities
8. Sound training modules (pharmacists, healthcare assistants, etc)

Eligibility forms shall be available and may be secured from October 18 to October 28, 2004 at the PITC BAC Secretariat c/o Ms. Helen R. Muncal - 4th Floor, NDC Building, 116 Tordesillas St., Salcedo Village, Makati City upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P500.00.

Interested parties shall submit on or before 3:00 PM October 29, 2004 their Letter of Intent, Proposal, Eligibility forms together with required documents in a sealed envelope addressed to:

NATIONWIDE MARKETING & DISTRIBUTION OF PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS
c/o PITC BIDS & AWARDS COMMITTEE
4th Floor NDC Building
116 Tordesillas St. Salcedo Village, Makati City

Eligible parties shall be required to make a brief presentation to PITC on their capabilities and proposal.

PITC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL PROPOSALS WITHOUT OFFERING ANY REASON, WAIVE ANY REQUIRED FORMALITIES IN THE OFFERS RECEIVED AND MAKE AN AWARD TO THE PARTY WHOSE PROPOSAL IS MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO PITC.

(Sgd.) MARLENE R. LOPEZ
BAC CHAIR

(PDI--Oct. 17 & 24, 2004)

Trans Co
NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION
South Luzon Operations & Maintenance

October 12, 2004

INVITATION FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The National Transmission Corporation, South Luzon Operation & Maintenance invites interested Filipino contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the proposed project/undertaking:

Project No.	Contract Code/Title	Location	Duration	Approved Budget for the Contract	Source of Budget	License and Registration Particulars issued by PCAB
1.	Trans-04-CPSMDS EG-01PB2 Construction of PSMD South Office Building	Peñafrancia, Daraga, Albay	150 calendar days	Php 7,397,742.99	Internal Cash Generation (ICG)	• At least *"B, Gen. Building"* • At least *"Medium A, Building and Industrial Plant"*

Prospective bidders must have at least completed a single contract similar to the contract to be bid where the major component of works involves furnishing of all labor materials, supplies, tools, equipment, supervision and other incidentals necessary for the construction of all types of buildings, i.e. housing, schools, hospitals, market, multi-storey buildings, airport terminals and other related structures.

Applications for Eligibility (legal, technical and financial documents and statements) shall be evaluated using "PASS/FAIL" criteria and only Eligible Bidders shall be invited by NTC in the bidding. All bids equal to or lower than the Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid shall be evaluated based on the responsiveness of the contractor's offer to the contract under bidding; and shall be subject to Postqualification before an award is made. Bid Prices submitted higher than the Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid shall be rejected and returned outright.

Application for Eligibility and Eligibility Forms will be available for issuance starting October 15, 2004 up to November 4, 2004 at the: Regional Contracts Management Office, Administration Division, NTC, South Luzon Operation and Maintenance, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna, Telefax No.: 520-8213 and E-mail Address: (rdramas@transco.ph) upon presentation of Letter of Intent, original PCAB License and payment of a non-refundable fee of P800.00 per copy per project.

Deadline for submission of duly accomplished Application for Eligibility, Eligibility Forms, documents and statements shall be on or before 9:00 A.M. of November 5, 2004 which shall be submitted at the office address mentioned above. Opening and Eligibility Screening shall be held on the same date and time specified. If the date is a non-working day or declared non-working day, the deadline for submission shall be moved to the next working day immediately following said date. Late submission and/or incomplete application shall not be accepted.

Prospective bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. The procurement rules and regulations used in this infrastructure project shall be in accordance with the implementing rules and regulations of "R.A. 9184".

NTC reserves the right to reject any Application for Eligibility or all bids without offering any reasons, waive any required formality therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.

Additional information shall be furnished upon request. All communication should be addressed to the undersigned at the aforementioned address.

(Sgd.) G.R. LISTANO
Dept. Manager, PSMD-North and
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI--Oct. 24, 2004)

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
KAGAWARAN NG KATARUNGAN
PANGASIWAAN SA PATALAAN NG LUPAIN
(LAND REGISTRATION AUTHORITY)
East Avenue cor. NIA Road
Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Land Registration Authority (LRA) invites all interested Small "B" contractors, duly registered with the Government-Electronic Procurement System (G-EPS), to participate in the public bidding for the construction of the following infrastructure projects.

	Project	Contract Duration	Proposed Budget
1.	Boac, Marinduque	4 mos.	P 3,862,378.8
2.	Borongan, Eastern Samar	4 mos.	P 3,750,000.00
3.	Tubod, Lanao del Norte	4 mos.	P 2,880,000.00

The source of funding is SARO No. C-03-06911 dated December 29, 2003.

Interested Contractors shall be required to submit a LETTER OF INTENT, addressed to the Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee for Infrastructure Projects (BAC-Infrastructure), 5th Floor, LRA Building, East Avenue corner NIA Road, Diliman, Quezon City with telephone no. 924-47-33 and shall submit for registration, a certified true copy of the following documents (originals to be presented for authentication):

a. G-EPS
b. DTI or SEC Registration Certificate
c. Mayor's permit and Renewal of PCAB Contractor's License as of fiscal year 2004
d. Taxpayer's Indentification Number
e. Sworn statement from the prospective bidder that it is not included in the "blacklist" issued by CIAP

Eligibility Forms can be secured from the BAC-Infrastructure Secretariat, 5th Floor, LRA Building, from October 25 to 26, 2004, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **PESOS FIVE HUNDRED** (P500.00) for each project.

Deadline for the submission of eligibility requirements is on November 4, 2004. Prospective bidders shall present the original documents of all eligibility requirements for authentication purposes. Eligible parties shall be issued a complete set of Bid Documents on November 10-12, 2004 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **PESOS THREE THOUSAND** (P3,000.00) for each project.

The Pre-Bid Conference shall be held at the LRA Multi-Purpose Hall, 5th Floor, LRA Building based on the following schedule:

	Project	Date	Time
1.	Boac, Marinduque	November 15, 2004	10:00 a.m.
2.	Borongan, Eastern Samar	- do -	1:30 p.m.
3.	Tubod, Lanao del Norte	- do -	3:00 p.m.

Sealed bids in two (2) envelopes shall be received and opened at the LRA Multi Purpose Hall based on the following schedule:

	Project	Date	Time
1.	Boac, Marinduque	November 26, 2004	10:00 a.m.
2.	Borongan, Eastern Samar	- do -	1:30 p.m.
3.	Tubod, Lanao del Norte	- do -	3:00 p.m.

The BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any required formality in the bids received, and accept such offer that may be considered most advantageous to LRA. The bidder shall bear all costs in the preparation of their bids and the government shall in no case be responsible or liable for their costs regardless of the outcome of the bidding process.

(Sgd.) RONALD A. ORTILE
Chairman, BAC-Infrastructure

(PDI – October 10 & 24, 2004)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the public that the following persons are no longer connected with INTERNATIONAL QUALITY MANPOWER SERVICES, INC. (I.Q.MAN).

1. Eduardo S. Domingo Jr.	effective 15-October-04
2. Imelda D. David	effective 06-October-04
3. Remie Rose B. Mangahas	effective 30-September-04

All transactions entered into by the persons stated above for and in behalf of the company from the said dates shall no longer be honored.

(For POEA purposes only)

Trans Co
NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION
South Luzon Operation & Maintenance

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID AD NO. TRANSCO 2004-011B

The National Transmission Corporation, South Luzon O&M Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) wishes to invite interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid on the items listed below.

DATE OF BIDDING: NOVEMBER 16, 2004; 1:30 PM

SCHEDULE	ITEM DESCRIPTION	PR NUMBER	APPROVED BUDGET
A1	125 KM OVERHEAD GROUND WIRES, ALUMINUM CLAD	DI-04-322	P 19,375,000.00
A2	2 SETS SAFETY GROUND & GROUND GRID TEST SET	3SL-04-135	P 5,400,000.00

NOTE: A Pre-Bidding Conference for Schedules A1 and A2 will be held on November 3, 2004; 1:30 PM at the OAVP Conference Room.

Complete sets of Application Form for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be obtained from the Office of the Manager, Administration Division, SL O&M San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P500.00 per schedule starting October 26, 2004. No bid documents will be issued on the date of bidding.

Bids will be received at the Conference Room (OAVP), Transco-SL O&M, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna until the specified date and time of bidding above after which said bids will be opened in the presence of attending bidders.

Prospective Bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. The procurement rules and regulations used in this transaction shall be in accordance with the implementing rules and regulations of "R.A. 9184".

The Bidder shall furnish as part of his bid, a bid security in the amount equivalent to at least 1% of the approved budget in the form of Cash, Manager's/Cashier's Check, Certified Check, Bank Draft, or 15% of the approved budget in the form of Bank Guarantee, or 2.5% of the approved budget in the form of Surety Bond, penal and callable on demand issued by GSIS or a Surety or Insurance Company accredited by the Office of the Insurance Commission.

The Corporation reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligations to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the basis of such action.

TRANSCO-South Luzon's other requirements are posted at the DBM Website: www.procurementservice.net and at the TRANSCO Website www.transco.ph

(Sgd.) G.R. LISTANO
Chairman-BAC
SL O & M

(PDI--Oct. 24, 2004)

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PHILIPPINE INTERNATIONAL TRADING CORPORATION

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ACCREDITATION

The **PHILIPPINE INTERNATIONAL TRADING CORPORATION Bids and Awards Committee (PITC-BAC)** invites local suppliers, manufacturers, wholesalers and distributors of pharmaceutical products who can meet the following minimum qualifications to apply for **accreditation:**

- In the Pharmaceutical business for at least three (3) years and still in operation
- With Stockholders' Equity or Capital Account of at least **P5 Million** as of December 31, 2003
- Must have valid License to Operate (LTO) issued by the Bureau of Food & Drugs (BFAD) as Drugs Wholesaler/Distributor/Importer
- Such other documentation requirements as stipulated in the Application Form for Accreditation

Accreditation forms shall be available and may be secured from October 25, 2004 to November 15, 2004 at the PITC BAC Secretariat located at the 4th Floor, NDC Building, 116 Tordesillas St. Salcedo Village, Makati City c/o Mrs. Helen R. Muncal upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P500.00.

Deadline for submission of accreditation forms and requirements shall be on November 19, 2004. Accredited suppliers shall be notified in writing by PITC and shall pay the accreditation fee of P5,000.00. Only accredited/eligible suppliers who have paid the accreditation fee will be allowed to participate in PITC projects.

PITC assumes no obligation whatsoever to accredit any firm or entity that does not meet its accreditation and eligibility requirements nor to award any project to any firm or entity on the sole basis of accreditation. Neither shall PITC assume any responsibility to compensate any firm or entity for any amounts or expenses incurred in preparation of accreditation and eligibility forms.

(Sgd.) MARLENE R. LOPEZ
CHAIR - BIDS & AWARDS COMMITTEE

(PDI--Oct. 24 & 31, 2004)

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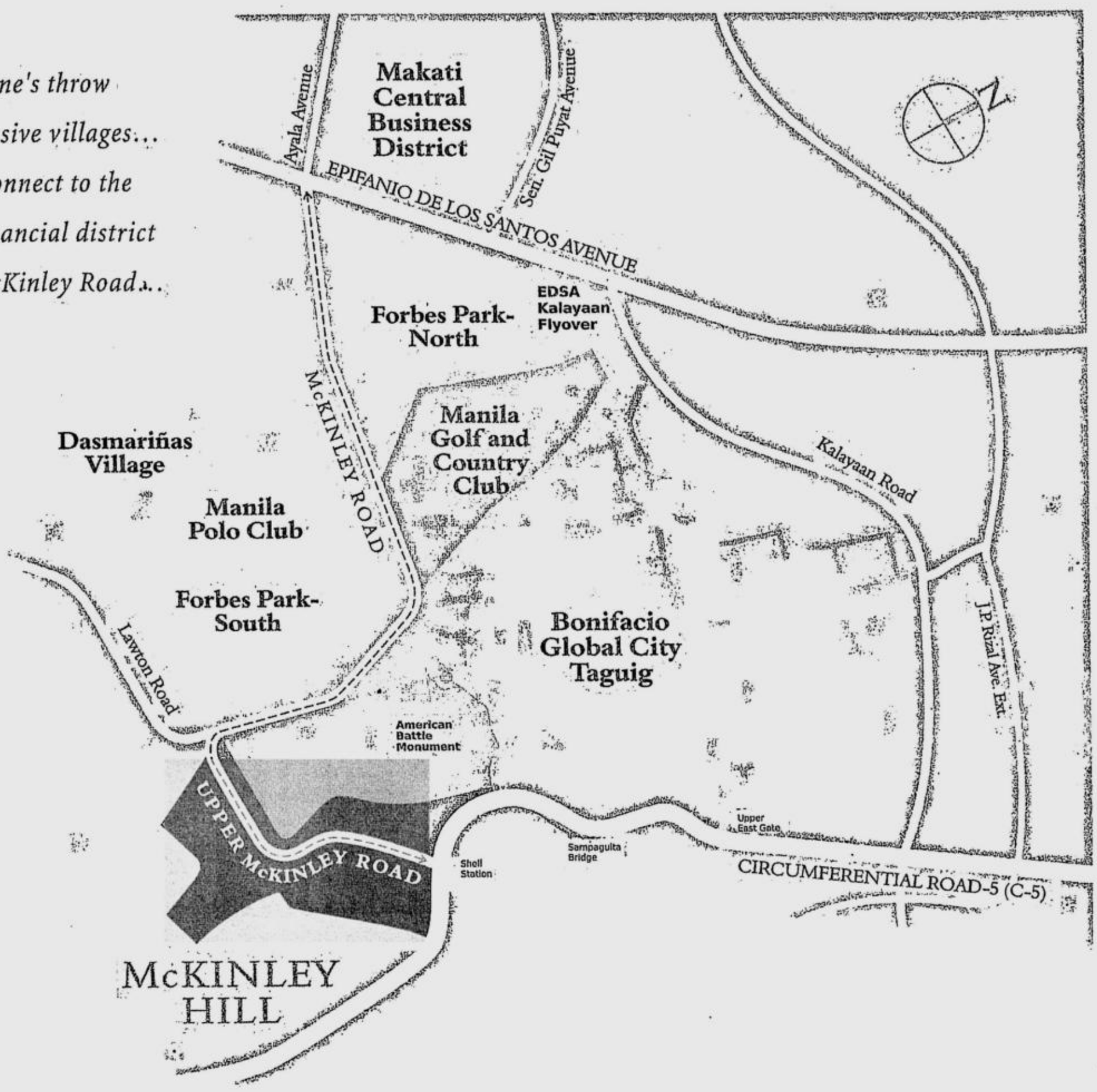

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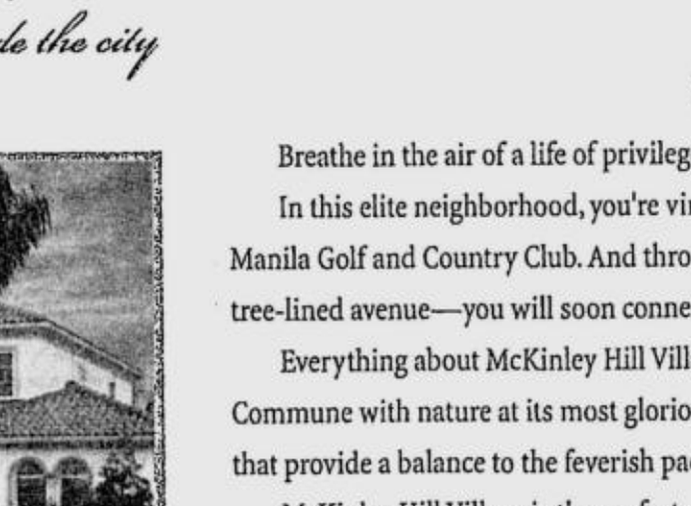

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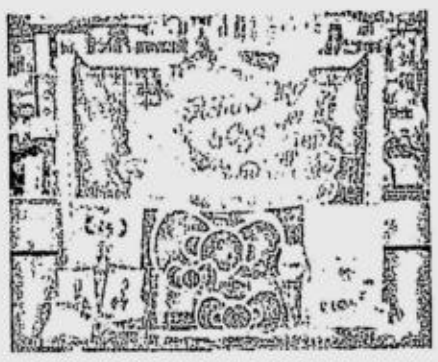

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ROMANIAN perambulations /J1

Sisters of St. Paul of Chartres—'women with a heart'

By Elizabeth Lolarga
Contributor

SUCH is the modesty of the sisters of St. Paul of Chartres (SPC) that it wasn't until the closing phase of their celebration of 100 years of SPC's presence in the Philippines that they remembered to reach out to media through a centennial bureau so they could tell their story.

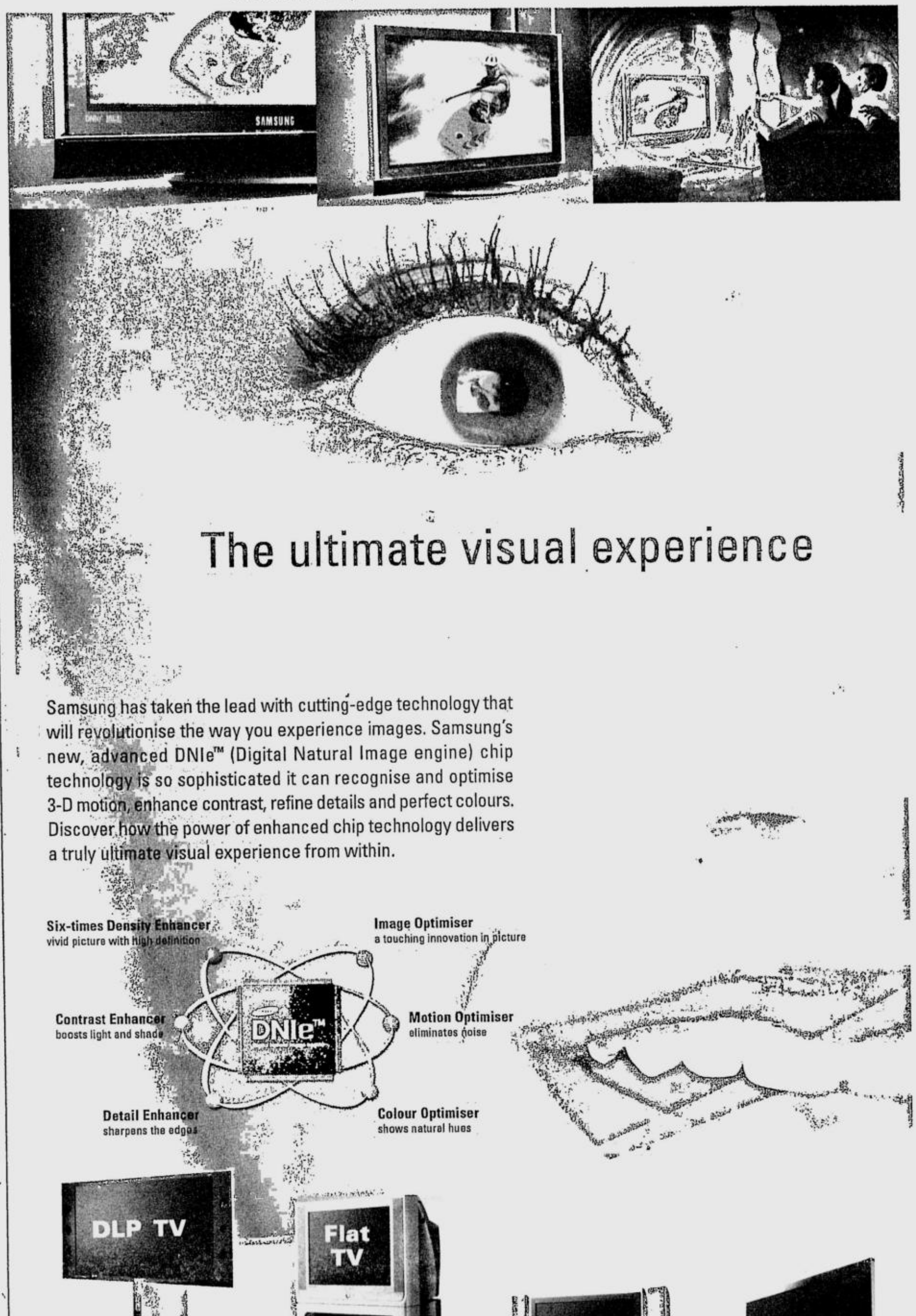
Even their provincial superior, Sr. Zeta Caridad Rivero, said she would be content with just a small announcement. The culmination of the event is a solemn High Mass at the Manila Cathedral at 4 p.m., Oct. 25, with President Macapagal-Arroyo and Chief Justice Hilario Davide in attendance.

Playwright-director Fr. James B. Reuter, SJ, called the sisters "women with a heart" in his musical play that will have its gala tonight at 7 at the newly renovated Fleur de Lis Auditorium at St. Paul University Manila on Pedro Gil, Malate. He described them as going "under the bridges in search of the poor. You took care of them body and soul. You brought God into their lives like sunlight."

Magnificent seven

The story begins on Oct. 29, 1904, when seven nuns arrived in Dumaguete from Vietnam aboard a *baroto* (a sturdy boat) to pioneer the mission of SPC sisters in the Philippines. The magnificent seven were Mother Marthe de St. Paul

SISTERS/ C2



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THE BASILAN Community, 1982-1983

MOTHER General in the free clinic

Sisters of St. Paul of Chartres—'women with a heart'

Father Reuter's musical play pays tribute to the SPC, which is marking the centennial of its presence in the Philippines

From page C1

Legendre, Sr. Ange Marie Bannier, Sr. Marie Louise du Sacre Couer Nivou, Sr. Anna de la Croix, Sr. Catherine de Genes Gutteres, Sr. Marie Josephine Rappeport and Sr. Saint Charles Aho. Only one could speak English.

They were invited by the American bishop of Jaro, Frederick Rooker, who was concerned about the growing absence of religious education in public schools. The sisters began catechism before putting up a school that is now St. Paul University Dumaguete. It attracted 30 enrollees. The next year they founded St. Paul Hospital in Manila and another school in Vigan, Ilocos Sur.

Three ministries

Today there are 551 sisters all over the country. The oldest is Sr. Marie Bernadette Lusica, 101, and the youngest, Sr. Claudette Yecla, 24. Except for the elderly or infirm, most of them are engaged in the congregation's three ministries of education, health care and pastoral work.

The sisters serve 59,000 students in 35 schools and universities from Tuguegarao City in Cagayan in the north to Surallah, South Cotabato in Mindanao.

They act as doctors, nurses or hospital administrators of the St. Paul Hospitals in Tuguegarao and Iloilo Cities; Perpetual Succour Hospital in Cebu City; Notre Dame de Chartres Diagnostic Center in Baguio; Maria Reyna Hospital in Cagayan de Oro; De La Salle University Medical Center and JPR Hospital and National Medical Research Center in Dasmariñas, Cavite; Our Lady of Peace Hospital in Parañaque City; St. Joseph Bukidnon Hospital in Maramag, Bukidnon; General Santos Doctors Hospital in General Santos City and Julio Cardinal Rosales Memorial Hospital in Dalaguete, Cebu.

1925—first high school graduates

Also under the pastoral ministry are the two leprosaria in Sipocot, Camarines Sur and Culion, Palawan; work with indigenous peoples at the Santa Cruz Mission in Lake Sebu and the Aetas in Gala, Zambales; medical outreach and care of street children.

St. Paul University Manila opened recently a drop-in center for street kids, offering them a bath, a place to sleep, catechism and lessons on good manners.

SPC's pride

The sisters are proud of Paulinian alumna who have distinguished themselves, like Justice Ameurfina Herrera; former broadcaster June Keithley; singers Celeste Legaspi and Noemi Manikan; dancers Maniya Barredo, Rebecca Rodriguez, Cecile and Tina Santos; writer Cristiná Pantoja Hidalgo; television directors Maria Vargas Montelibano and Ida Firme Vargas; public servant Agnes Devanadera; Sr. Eva Maamo, recipient of the Ramon Magsaysay, Mother Teresa and 10 Outstanding Filipinos awards and president of Our Lady of Peace Mission Foundation; Sr. Rosanne Mallillin, executive secretary of the National Secretariat for Social Action of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines; and Sr. Eden Orlino, social action director of the diocese of Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya.

Paulinians with a talent for drama made the branch in Manila known in the 1960s as "Broadway in Herran." Musicals like "The Sound of Music," "Carousel" and "Showboat," under the direction of Father Reuter, were mounted at the Fleur de Lis auditorium. The school was also much praised then for its glee club and an all-girl string orchestra.

Story in multimedia

The Sisters of St. Paul of Chartres Heritage Center, including a real windmill, at the Our Lady of Chartres Convent on the provincial road in Antipolo City just need finishing touches. When the doors are opened to the public, the story of the nuns will be seen in multimedia, paintings, sculptures by Julie Lluch, antique religious crucifixes, chalices and the like, text, mannequins depicting the evolution of the sisters' habit from the black floor-sweeping dress with cornet for the head to the post-Vatican II gray or white knee-length dress and veil.

Sr. Zeta said the centennial was both "a blessing and a formidable responsibility. It is a blessing for we are the recipients of so rich a heritage that was started from mere scratch, planted on bare earth by missionary hands that have been calloused and bruised from the toil and labor of the beginnings. It is a blessing for us to view the life of this missionary congregation from the vantage point of the first 100 years, a view that reveals the gracious tenderness of God."

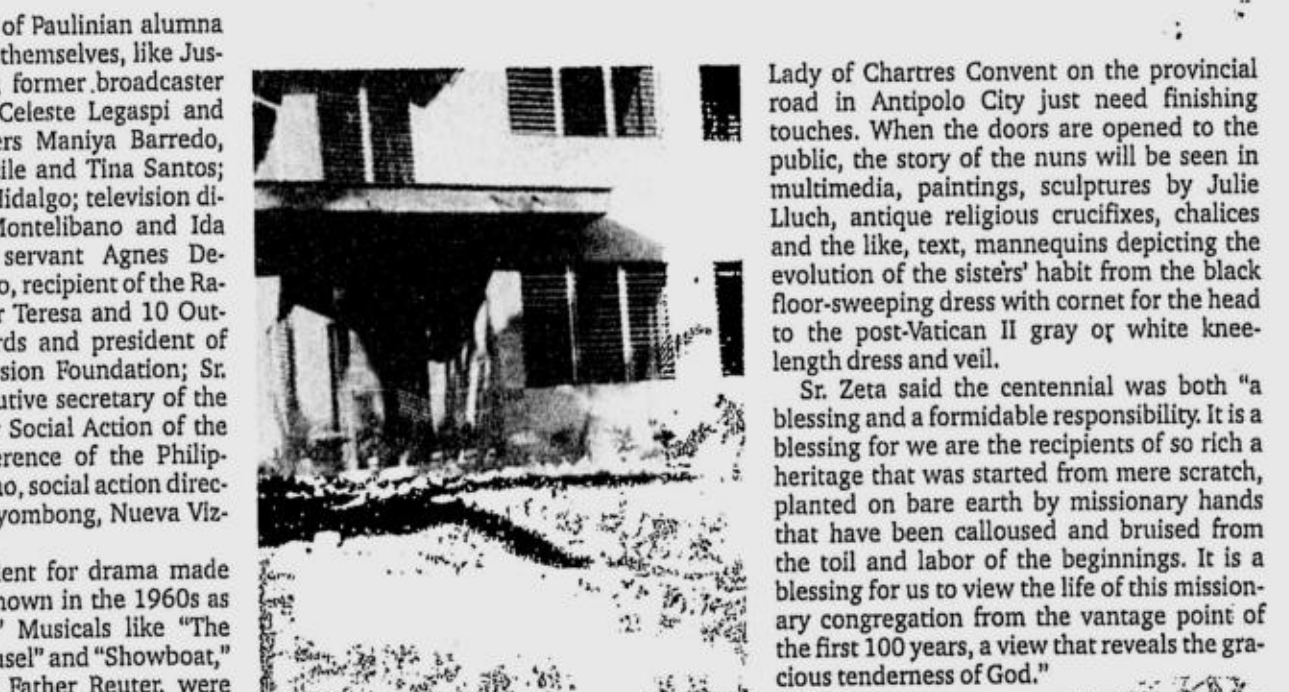
AERIAL view of SPCD's new site

SR. Mary Incarnation de Manuel, SPC, with Dr. Eduardo Gonzales, dean/director, and Bro. Andrew Gonzales, FSC

THE SISTERS' house built by the Bishop (1972)

THE MALTA dispensary

THE NEW sisters' convent, August 1985



THE OLD building at Vigan, continuously used since 1905

AMBASSADOR Roberto Romulo, Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo, President Macapagal-Arroyo, Lovely Romulo, Olivia Romulo and lawyer Ricardo Romulo

PHOTOS: BETOY JOHNSON

LOUIE and Rep. Teddy Locsin with Ambassador Lani Bernardo

INDIAN Ambassador Navrekha Sharma

Romulos fete another Romulo

AMBASSADOR **Roberto** and Ms **Olivia Romulo**, with lawyer **Ricardo Romulo**, requested the pleasure of the company of some 60 notable movers and shakers in an intimate dinner for another Romulo, the third to serve a President of this republic.

Given in honor of newly appointed Foreign Secretary **Alberto** and Ms **Lovely Romulo**, the quietly elegant dinner was held at the marble hall of the National Museum of the Philippines, an understated venue for high-powered gatherings.

DIPLOMATIC SWIRL

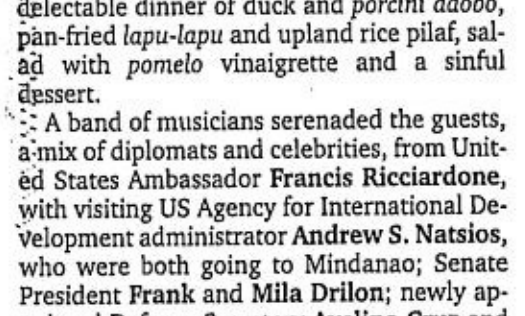
By Amiga

Cocktails were held in an upper floor gallery as guests awaited the arrival of **President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo**. They then proceeded to the hall for the sit-down dinner, occupying tables with engaging names like mango and pineapple, fruits that were in the centerpieces, too.

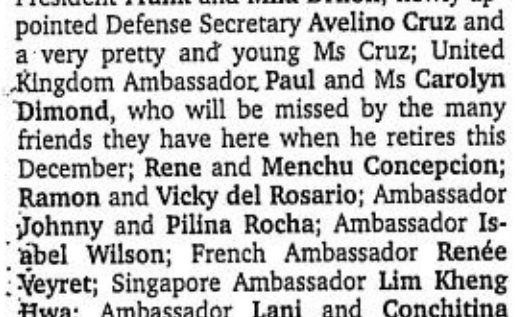
The inimitable **Gaita Fores** presented a delectable dinner of duck and *porcini adobo*, pan-fried *lapu-lapu* and upland rice pilaf, salad with *pomelo* vinaigrette and a sinful dessert.

A band of musicians serenaded the guests, a mix of diplomats and celebrities, from United States Ambassador **Francis Ricciardone**, with visiting US Agency for International Development administrator **Andrew S. Natsios**, who were both going to Mindanao; Senate President **Frank** and **Mila Drilon**; newly appointed Defense Secretary **Avelino Cruz** and a very pretty and young Ms Cruz; United Kingdom Ambassador **Paul** and Ms **Carolyn Dimond**, who will be missed by the many friends they have here when he retires this December; **Rene** and **Menchu Concepcion**; **Ramon** and **Vicky del Rosario**; Ambassador **Johnny** and **Pilina Rocha**; Ambassador **Isabel Wilson**; French Ambassador **Renée Veyret**; Singapore Ambassador **Lim Kheng Hwa**; Ambassador **Lani** and **Conchitina Bernardo**; Indian Ambassador **Navrekha Sharma**; Thai Ambassador **Busba Bunnag**; Chinese Ambassador **Wu Hongbo**, who traded jokes with Ambassador Johnny but didn't give away any trade secrets; and scores of others just like them.

You would have loved it.

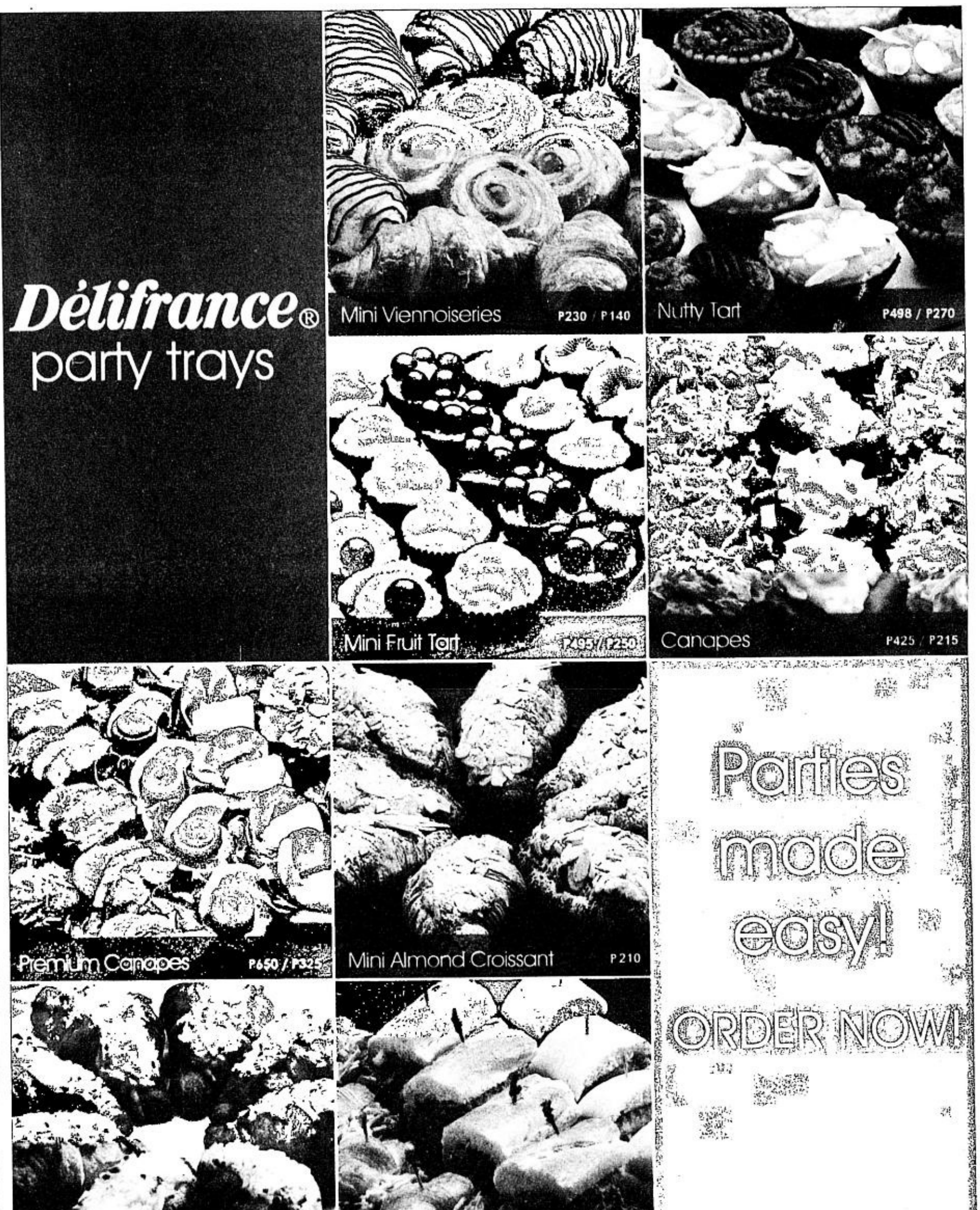


SPANISH Ambassador Ignacio and Sra. Aurora Sagaz



US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone and Usaid administrator Andrew Natsios

THAILAND Ambassador Busba Bunnag and Brunei Ambassador Hajah Maimunah Dato Elias



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YOUNG LOLITAS. The girls of Harajuku, sporting colored big hair and dramatic tan, are friendly enough to oblige a tourist's request for a photo.

Tokyo's carnival of cute and cool

Story on page D4

Teen town meets toon town in Harajuku, hangout of Japan's young fashion chameleons

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SMART Simply Amazing

A touch of Europe in the heart of Tokyo

Text and photos
by Chelo Banal-Formoso

Filipino travelers have a kindred spirit in the Westin Tokyo's general manager, Gerhardt R. E. Schmidt

IF you're bound for Tokyo and shopping for a five-star hotel, you should check out the Westin Tokyo. The hotel may not have the sheen of having starred in an award-winning movie like "Lost in Translation" but its general manager Gerhardt R. E. Schmidt, has fond memories of the Philippines. That should count for something among us sentimental Pinoys.

"I was there during the golden years," says Schmidt of his tenure at the Hotel InterContinental in Makati, which he joined as food and beverage manager in 1975. He remembers the Zobel boys, referring to brothers Jaime Augusto and Fernando and their cousin Iñigo. He assumed the executive assistant manager position after two years, and in another two years became the InterCon's resident manager.

Schmidt recalls it was the InterContinental Hotel Manila that established the very first guest relations department in the hotel industry. The concept was picked up by other hotels and other cities.

From the Philippines, Schmidt was dispatched to be the general manager of the InterContinental in Oman in the Middle East. His other post-Makati postings have taken him to Singapore, Indonesia, China, and now Japan.

Everywhere he had been, he says, he has brought a team of Filipinos with him, including musicians.

But since you cannot choose a hotel simply because of its GM's affinity for Pinoys and things Philippine, you should know why the Westin Tokyo in itself is a good choice. For one, it has a wonderful location. Built in the heart of the Yebisu Garden Place, a cultural and entertainment center occupying what was once a Sapporo beer brewery, the Westin offers its guests easy access to a courtyard that is breathtakingly beautiful at night. During the Christmas season, there is a giant tree made of Swarovski crystals right smack in the center of the park.

In itself, the hotel is refreshing with its classic European theme. The interiors are done with luxury, style and sophistication—a combination that few hotels even in Europe can offer.

Since its opening 10 years ago, the Westin Tokyo has centralized its guest services so you only have to press the Service Express button for anything you need, be it room service, more towels, answer to a question—anything! The Westin is also proud of its express checkout. If you're paying by credit card, you don't have to go down to the lobby to check out. You simply do it from your room.

Each of the 438 rooms is spacious, has a wide window and a high ceiling, and is furnished with twin bed, a receiving area, an executive desk. The bathroom has a shower stall separate from the tub. Oh, and the toilet is incomparably convenient because

A TOUCH/ D3

ELEGANT lobby of the Westin Tokyo, one of the top three Western-style hotels in the world's most expensive city

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23 October (Saturday)
TIME — PARTICIPANT & ACTIVITY
1:00 PM – 4:00 PM — HP Product Demo and Showcase
IBM Product Demo and Showcase
5:00 PM – 8:00 PM — PALM ONE / IPOD Product Demo Showcase of the New PALM ONE T5 & iPOD products & accessories
SIEMENS Showcase of the latest MOBILE PHONES & accessories
24 October (Sunday)
TIME — PARTICIPANT & ACTIVITY
11:00 AM – 1:00 PM — FUJIFILM Digital Photography Seminar
1:00 PM – 4:00 PM — FUJIFILM PrintPix/ Digital Camera Demo
1:00 PM – 4:00 PM — NOKIA Get Close and Personal with Nokia
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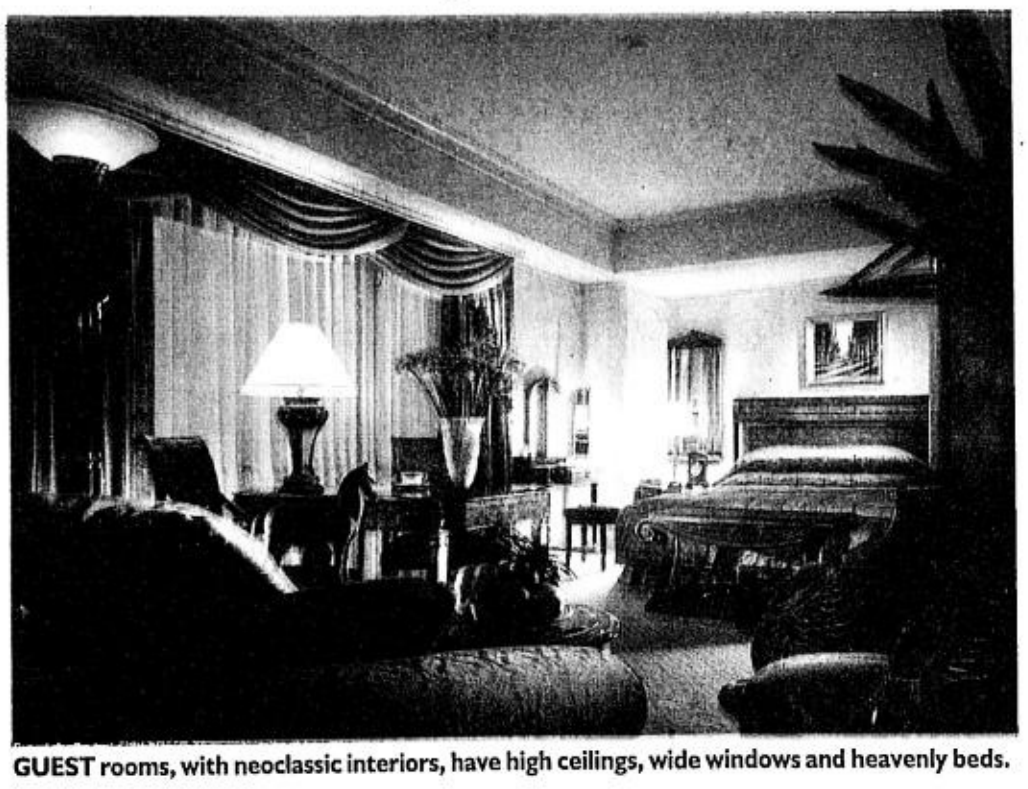


GUEST rooms, with neoclassic interiors, have high ceilings, wide windows and heavenly beds.

A touch of Europe...

From page D2

it is a thoroughly modern contraption that also functions as a bidet. You will love the *yukata* or Japanese robe that comes fresh everyday.

Hands down, the Westin has the best beds in the hotel industry. They're not called Heavenly Beds for nothing. Ergonomically-designed mattress, feather-light pillows, crisp, quality sheets—all white and cloud-like in comfort were introduced in 2002.

In each guest room, along with the Bible, there's a copy of "Gaijin," a booklet of cartoons by Tim Ernst on being a Westerner in Japan.

"I saw the book at the Oriental Bazaar. I thought it was a good idea to have a copy in every room," says Schmidt. "I would have liked to have it in green because the Westin color is green but the book cover only came in yellow."

This year on Oct. 14, under Schmidt's watch as general manager, the Westin Tokyo turned a decade old and as celebration they opened the Tokyo Westin Executive Club Lounge on the 17th floor, where floor-to-ceiling windows offer a panoramic view of Tokyo. Included in the executive club special are 18 rooms with flat screen TVs and high-speed Internet access, spread out on floors 17 through 21.

In a city where every year 20,000 restaurants open and 10,000 close, the Westin's nine food outlets are doing very well, thank you.

Victor, open for lunch and dinner on the top floor, offers Continental cuisine, fine wines and a view of Rainbow bridge and Tokyo Tower that is striking after sunset.

Also on the top floor is the teppanyaki grill Yebisu, where chefs display their culinary skills before guests. Specialty of the house are Japanese beef and seafood, not to mention unusual lighting objects and tapestries of Japanese washi paper. "It's very popular. You can see Mt. Fuji on a clear day," says Schmidt.

Their strongest outlet, however, is the Chinese restaurant Ryutenmon on the second floor.

"We brought in Hong Kong chefs. Dimsum is very popular. The Japanese like abalone," says Schmidt. The Ryutenmom is open for lunch and dinner.

Other outlets includes the Compass. Rose sky lounge, the Mai Japanese restaurant with its mod Japan setting for breakfast, lunch and dinner, the Terrace all-day dining café-restaurant in Mediterranean style; the Café, the Lounge and the Bar.

Weddings being big business even in Japan, the Westin Tokyo has an in-house authentic Renaissance-style chapel with an amber onyx altar wall that has dramatic backlighting, a soaring roof and seating for up to 72 guests. For traditional Japanese wedding, a Shinto wedding hall is available. Reception may be booked at the Galaxy Ballroom or any of the four other function rooms. All the wedding facilities are located on the second floor, including anterooms, a beauty salon, a bridal boutique and a photo studio.

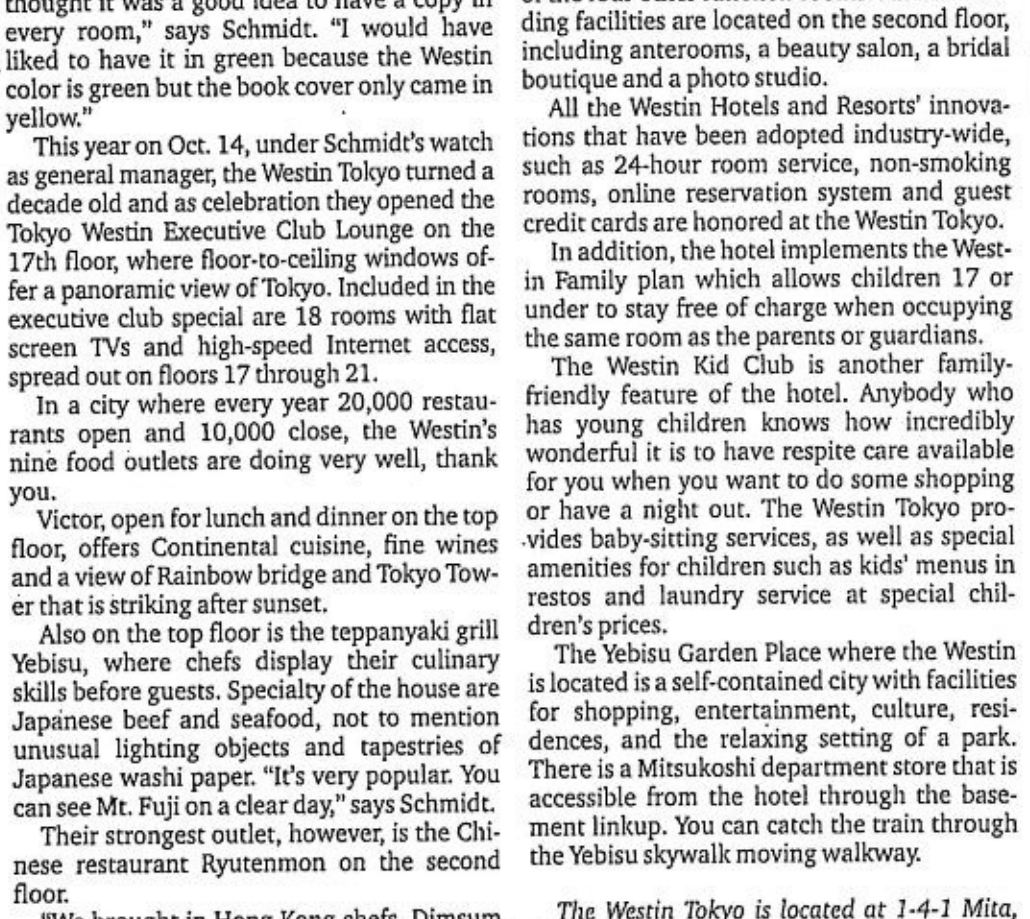
All the Westin Hotels and Resorts' innovations that have been adopted industry-wide, such as 24-hour room service, non-smoking rooms, online reservation system and guest credit cards are honored at the Westin Tokyo.

In addition, the hotel implements the Westin Family plan which allows children 17 or under to stay free of charge when occupying the same room as the parents or guardians.

The Westin Kid Club is another family-friendly feature of the hotel. Anybody who has young children knows how incredibly wonderful it is to have respite care available for you when you want to do some shopping or have a night out. The Westin Tokyo provides baby-sitting services, as well as special amenities for children such as kids' menus in restos and laundry service at special children's prices.

The Yebisu Garden Place where the Westin is located is a self-contained city with facilities for shopping, entertainment, culture, residences, and the relaxing setting of a park. There is a Mitsukoshi department store that is accessible from the hotel through the basement linkup. You can catch the train through the Yebisu skywalk moving walkway.

The Westin Tokyo is located at 1-4-1 Mita, Meguro-ku, Tokyo. Call 03(5423)7770.



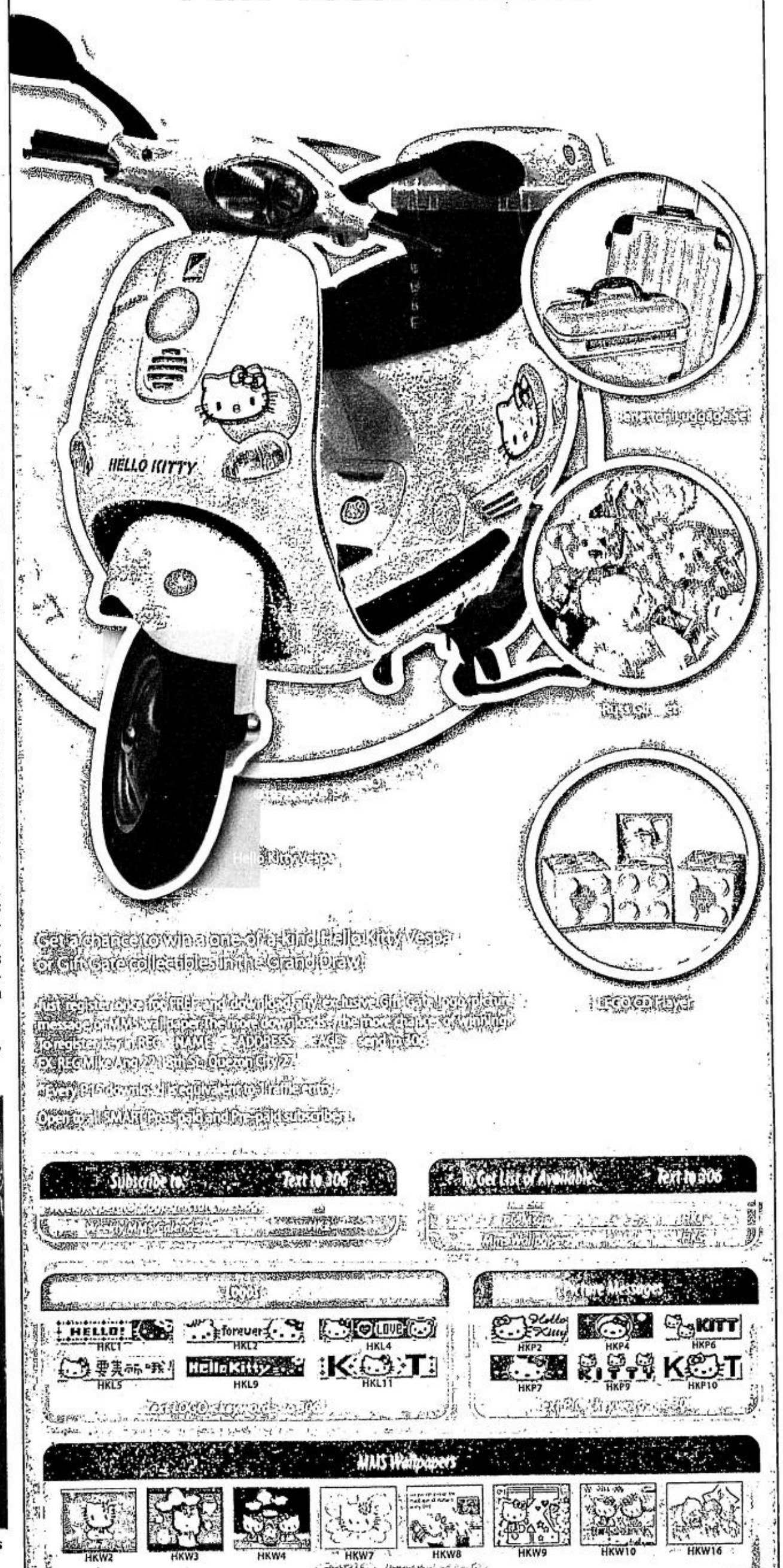
CITY lights form the backdrop for innovative Continental cuisine and a selection of fine wines at Victor's on the top floor.

MORNING is a good time for walking the dog in Yebisu Garden Place's courtyard.

SMART and giftgate celebrate Hello Kitty's 30th birthday!

Purr-fectly cute Perfectly SMART

Purr-fect Raffle!



Get a chance to win a one-of-a-kind Hello Kitty Vespa or Giftgate collectibles in the Grand Draw!

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SMART Simply Amazing!

Promo period: October 21 - December 31, 2004

Load GOLD Sanrio swatch

gift gate LEGO

Tokyo's carnival of cute and COOL

Text and photos by Chelo Banal-Formoso

THE FIRST time I saw Tessa Prieto-Valdes, aka Sea Princess, in her hilariously expressive finery, I was reminded of the photos I had seen in magazines of young Japanese girls and their fun fashion sense. So when I walked down the narrow Takeshita Street in Harajuku on a recent trip to Tokyo, I knew exactly what to expect: a sea of young Sea Princesses.

Harajuku, Tokyo's hyperactive fashion district and one of its top tourist attractions nowadays, was crowded on a Friday afternoon. According to Tokyoites, however, Sunday is the best day for people-watching in Harajuku. Thank goodness that didn't deter us from going. This bastion of mongrel fashion is a Tokyo must-see any day.

Crammed with cafés, boutiques, jewelry shops, record stores and interesting stops that are all going after the tween and teen markets, Harajuku on weekends offers bonus sideshows. Street performers entertain you side by side teenagers playing out their fantasies as punks, bikers, surfers, even heroines.

Teenagers stood around the bridge by the train station in groups. They looked like animé characters come alive. As we explored this Peter Pan alley further, we saw more groups of fashion chameleons. Elsewhere in the world, they could be debutantes, dressed in designer clothes, shopping at exclusive boutiques. But in Harajuku, they were reinventing themselves, some of them in attires so outrageous as to qualify as extreme sports. Quite a number of them were drop-dead cute, pretty-in-pink lingerie tops or all dolled up in whimsical outfits they had decorated with tiny teddy bears.

Others had thrown on a wild mix and match of cheap and expensive stuff that would never make Inno Sotto's list of "10 Things A Woman Should Have"—thrift-shop dresses or skirts layered over tight jeans; baggy, rapper's getup; school-girl sailor uniforms.

Some of them were wearing what might appear as trash to snooty fashionistas, but because they had Attitude, they didn't look like kids who were too broke to afford mainstream stores and had to shop at second-hand stores.

STRAWBERRY hair, mushroom patches, girlish ribbons and colorful trinkets are trademarks of kawaii culture.

LAYERING is the name of the fashion game.

DESIGNER bags, too, have a place in Harajuku.

BOY GEORGE, is that you?

DO you want to Harajuku? To get the Harajuku look, the first rule is to throw caution t the wind and wear whatever you like.

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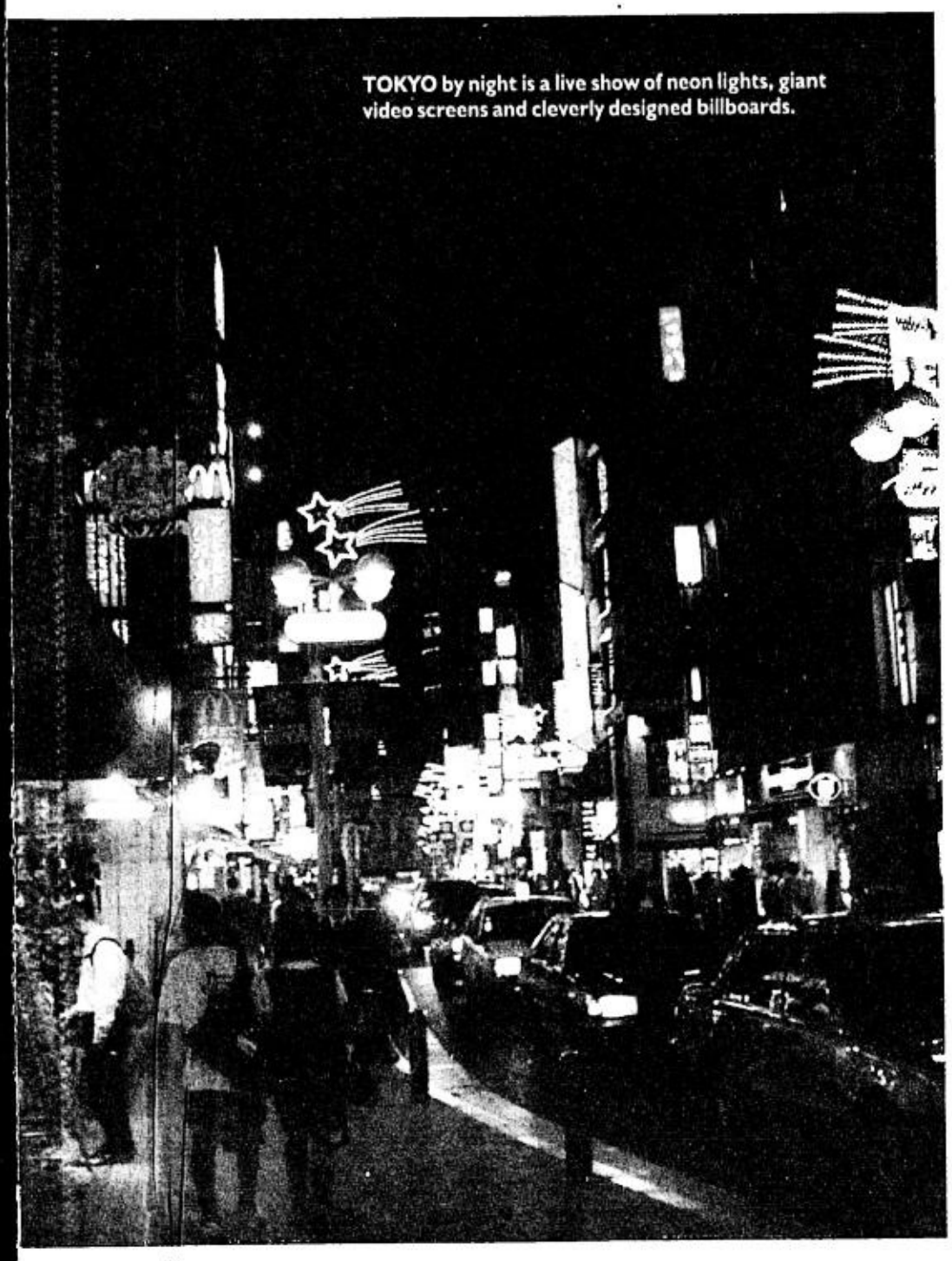
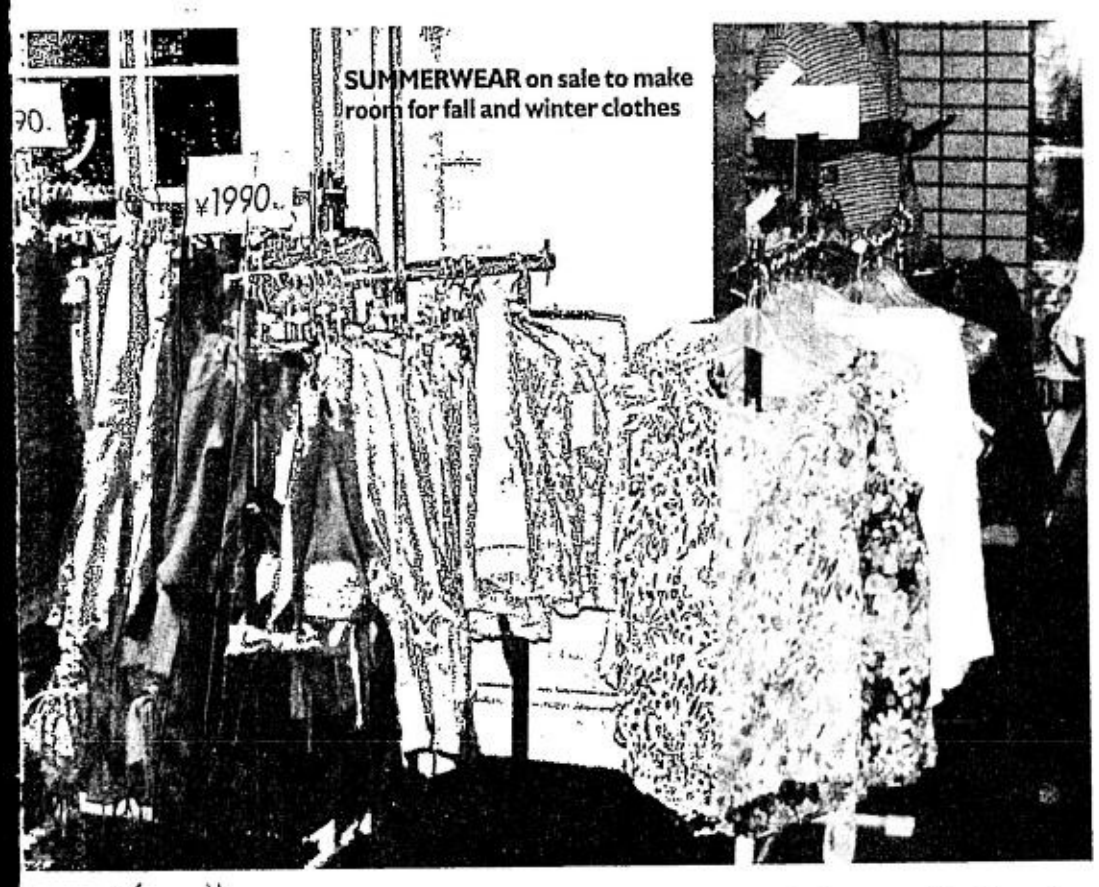


TOKYO by night is a live show of neon lights, giant video screens and cleverly designed billboards.



SUMMERWEAR on sale to make room for fall and winter clothes

SHOPS are crammed with exotic goods like these African arts and crafts.

Rebellion

The alternative fashion of Harajuku is a form of rebellion, a statement against parents who are elegant disciples of Prada, Gucci and Louis Vuitton. Previous generations of Japanese, after all, are responsible for reviving the mania for designer clothes and accessories. Before Japan's economic bubble burst, busloads of Japanese tourists lapped up luxury brands at exclusive stores from Hong Kong to Milan. On its opening day two years ago in the Ginza district, the Louis Vuitton store drew 4,000 customers.

In fact, just a few minutes' walk from Harajuku is Omotesando, the trendy, up-scale avenue that has become the center for couture brands like Chanel, Dior, Vuitton, St. Laurent and Japanese A-list designers Hanae Mori, Issey Miyake and Yohji Yamamoto.

The counter-culture to the upmarket Omotesando is Harajuku's flamboyant street fashion. The look when we visited was layered, perhaps because it was getting colder. Poncho-style knits, platform boots, knee-high socks, tight-ripped jeans, acid-colored pumps, school-girl uniforms—it was hard to spot one major trend because these teens were there to do their own thing.

There is no equivalent alley anywhere else in the world in the sense that here the kids have appropriated these back alleys and converted it into a stage where they can wear their fantasies and play grown-ups with no rules and no fears.

These are kids from the Tokyo suburbs who, as newspaper and magazine accounts have it, leave their homes in normal attires and change into their gothic rags at train stations, or in their friends' homes.

Packaging

And it was obvious that the Harajuku perpetrators were used to being ogled at. Even the J-punks were not anti-social like their Western counterparts. They didn't mind being photographed.

I suspect the point of the whole exercise of dressing up is to package oneself with aplomb. Even the disheveled, drowsy shopgirl's look was well-composed, none of it an accident. In this regard, these kids are no different from the rest of the Japanese society. Buy any small thing in Tokyo from the smallest souvenir stall in, say, Asakusa and they will wrap it up in nice paper. Creative packaging is of utmost importance in Japan.

"Suddenly [in 1997], there was this change. People started wearing clothes that weren't influenced by the West, or by things in magazines or in the movies. They were actually feeding what they want back to the fashion designers in a reverse process," said photographer Shoichi Aoki of the beginnings of Harajuku in an interview.

A playground where fashion is both the game and the escape for Tokyo's youth, Harajuku attracts the over-30 only if they are curious tourists. It is easy for grown-ups to dismiss this preoccupation with costume-playing as a passing fancy but since it has not died down, perhaps the girls of Harajuku are on their way to becoming an institution, much like the geishas.

Harajuku is located in Shibuya-ku, north of Shibuya and just next to the Meiji Shrine. To get there by train: Take the JR Yamanote Line to Harajuku Station.

SMART and gift gate celebrate Hello Kitty's 30th birthday!

Purr-fectly cute Perfectly SMART

Purr-fect *Gift* for your SMART Kid!

Promo period: October 25 - December 15, 2004

gift gate

SMART
Simply Amazing!

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2485, Series of 2004.

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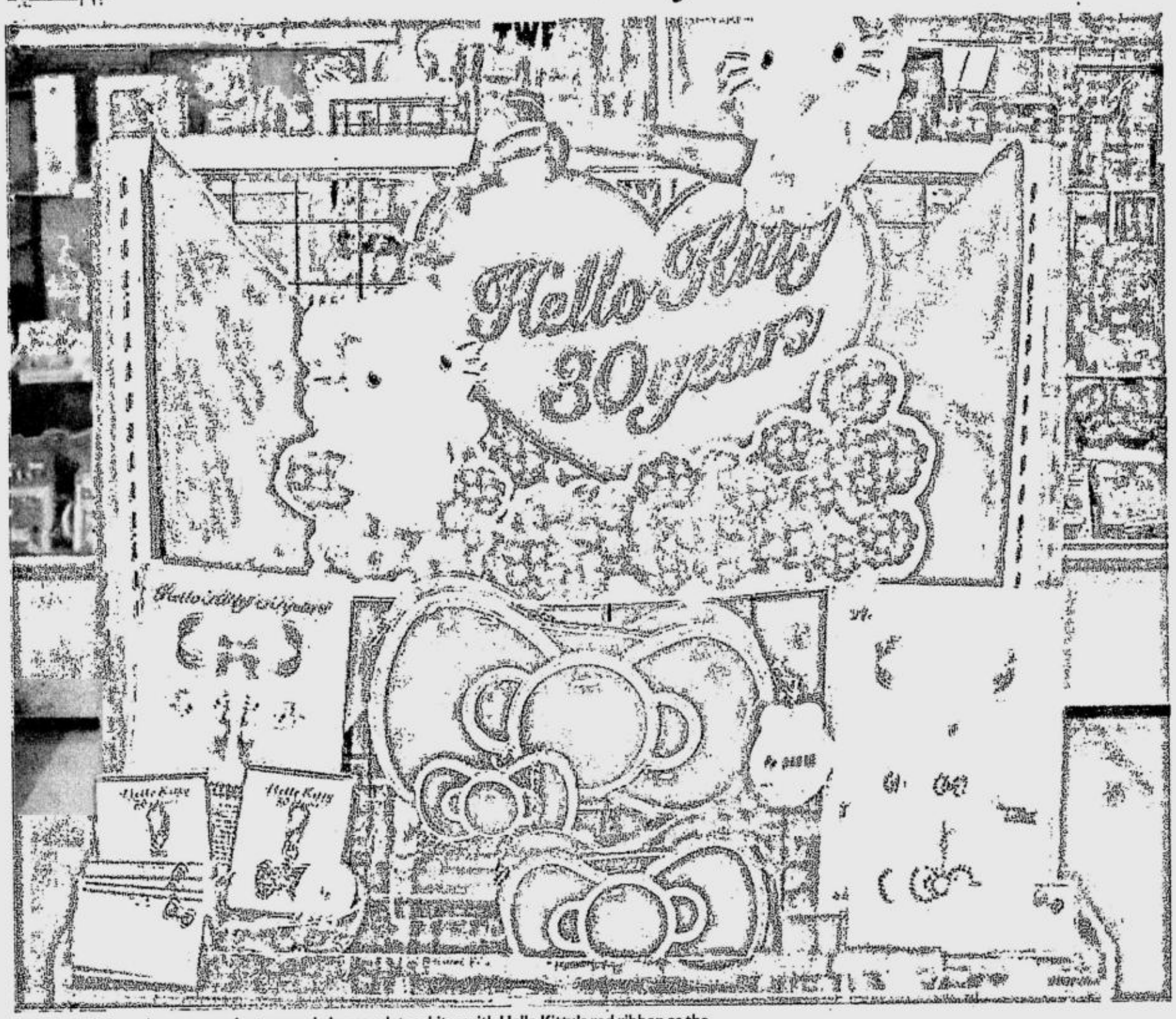
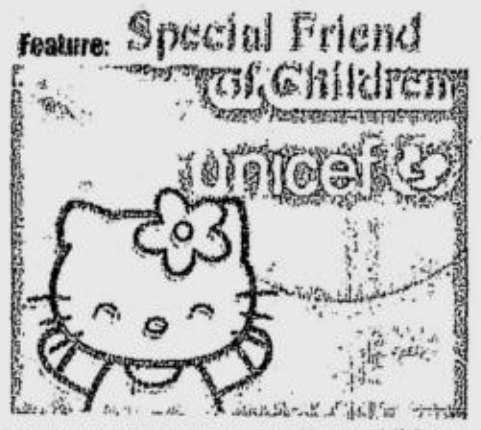


THE SPECIAL anniversary products come in immaculate whites with Hello Kitty's red ribbon as the accent. Classy and sophisticated, for the world's most favorite feline

Feature: Special Friend of Children



HELLO Kitty is spreading smiles to children everywhere as Unicef's Special Friend.

WATCH the latest movies on your hgh-tech Hello Kitty DVD player.

KITTY's creator, Yuko Yamaguchi, is assistant general manager for character design at Sanrio.

30 years of cute

Simple, innocent, even corny—but Hello Kitty has proven indestructible for three decades

STEP out in style in your Hello Kitty heels!

By Mina Elechicon
Contributor

THIS year, Hello Kitty is celebrating her 30th year in the retail business. Hello Kitty is 30 years old? Yes, and she hasn't changed much these past 30 years. She's still 13 lines, four colors, no mouth. And yet she continues to smile at us even without a mouth.

But Hello Kitty and the entire Sanrio cast of characters have also evolved into different categories—for babies, pre-teens (3-10), all ages (tweens), young adults (over 20+)—with discernible differences in looks, color, style and product choices. And no longer is she just for little kids.

It is a year-long birthday celebration for Hello Kitty, not just in Manila, but all over the world. Many more special products, exciting events and contests are marking her 30 years of cute.

Recently, a Hello Kitty beauty salon, a Fuji film photo studio, and an open fashion bar stocked with glamorous stuff (like Swarovski crystals, beads, sequins for a "Kit-tee" shirt designing contest) was set up at Gift Gate, Glorietta 2.

One-of-a-kind Kittys

Many have already seen the special-edition crystal and diamond-studded Hello Kitty figurine on CNN—only 30 pieces will be sold at a retail price of $30,000 each. Sanrio is now taking orders for a Hello Kitty platinum and diamond tiara, as well as the Hello Robo-Kitty, equipped with a camera, speaker and sensors to recognize and chat with people.

Coming soon are one-of-a-kind Hello Kitty items created by celebrity designers that will be sold at an online and silent auction in Los Angeles to benefit Unicef. Among the participating designers are Betsey Johnson, BCBG's Max Azria, Kimora Lee of Baby Phat, shoe designer Steve Madden, Cynthia Rowley, Judith Leiber (best known for her glittering crystal-studded purses), Isaac Mizrahi and Michael Graves.

Unicef bestowed Hello Kitty the exclusive title "Unicef Special Friend of Children" in recognition of her work on behalf of the world's children. A portion of the sales of Hello Kitty 30th-anniversary products will be donated by Sanrio to the US Fund of Unicef's girls' education programs. Sanrio is also initiating an advocacy program to educate fans about gender-based discrimination in developing world schools.

A unique traveling exhibition opened at Tokyo's Mori Art Museum and Laforet Museum last July showcasing the works of 60 artists and their own versions of Kitty. This included a captivating "Hello de Milo" by American fashion designer Jeremy Scott—all white, with the shapely Venus de Milo's body but with Hello Kitty's head! And there's Japanese artist Nagi Noda, who depicted Hello Kitty as a stuffed doll with half of her body looking like a panda. Hello Kitty is now high art!

Back in the late '70s, the skeptics were sure that Hello Kitty was just a passing fad. They thought kids would eventually outgrow the cat with no mouth, Virgie Ramos and her Gift Gates in Manila would stop organizing their annual Christmas events and Sanrio Japan would eventually run out of new products to sell. Soon enough, it would be goodbye, Hello Kitty.

Loyal following

But Hello Kitty continued to delight and develop a loyal following over the years. Gift Gate shops and Hello Kitty Corners opened not just in Japan and in the Philippines, but in over 40 countries around the world. Hundreds of licensees manufactured and promoted Hello Kitty, Little Twin Stars, My Melody, and the rest of the Sanrio characters on every imaginable, conceivable product. Currently in the market are over 20,000 products adorned with Hello Kitty's face, from stationery and school items to stuffed toys and games to high-end luxury goods.

Even the infringers, imitators, counterfeiters and copycats of the world have had a heyday riding on the cat's vast popularity. Law firms enjoyed a boost in their billings, as did a network of private detectives around the world engaged in protecting the Hello Kitty trademark.

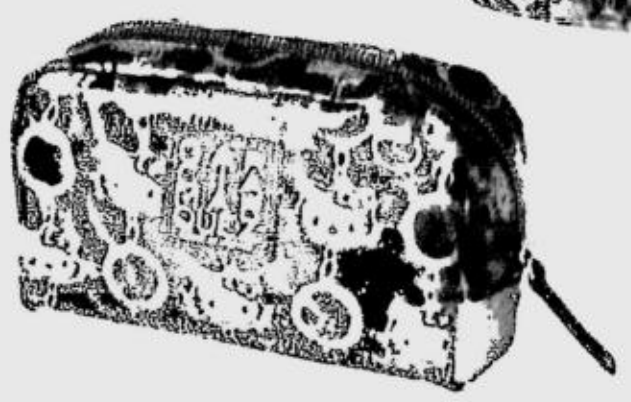
Sanrio produced films about her in Hollywood (though with somewhat limited success). A theme park, Puroland, was built just outside Tokyo so baby-boomer parents (who first fell in love with Hello Kitty two decades earlier) and their kids could frolic with the characters.

There is even a company that operates Hello Kitty-accessorized taxis, driven by young Japanese women, plying the streets of Tokyo. Sanrio.com is a hit, too, and attracts more than one million online users monthly.

Who is Hello Kitty? The storyline on which her character is based is not particularly dramatic. Her "real" name is Kitty White. She was born in London in 1974 to George and Mary White (both cats, of course), and she has an identical twin sister, Mimmy. Anthony and Margaret White were added as 'grandparents'

30 YEARS/ D7

HELLO Kittyfornia by Jean-Charles de Castelbajac, another artist collaboration for the 30th-anniversary exhibit



KITTY goes metallic with these bags especially designed by Garcia Marquez for the Hello Kitty 30th-anniversary exhibition.

IN the queendom of Kawai, Hello Kitty has reigned for 30 years with everything from stationery to trinkets.

30 years of cute

From page D6

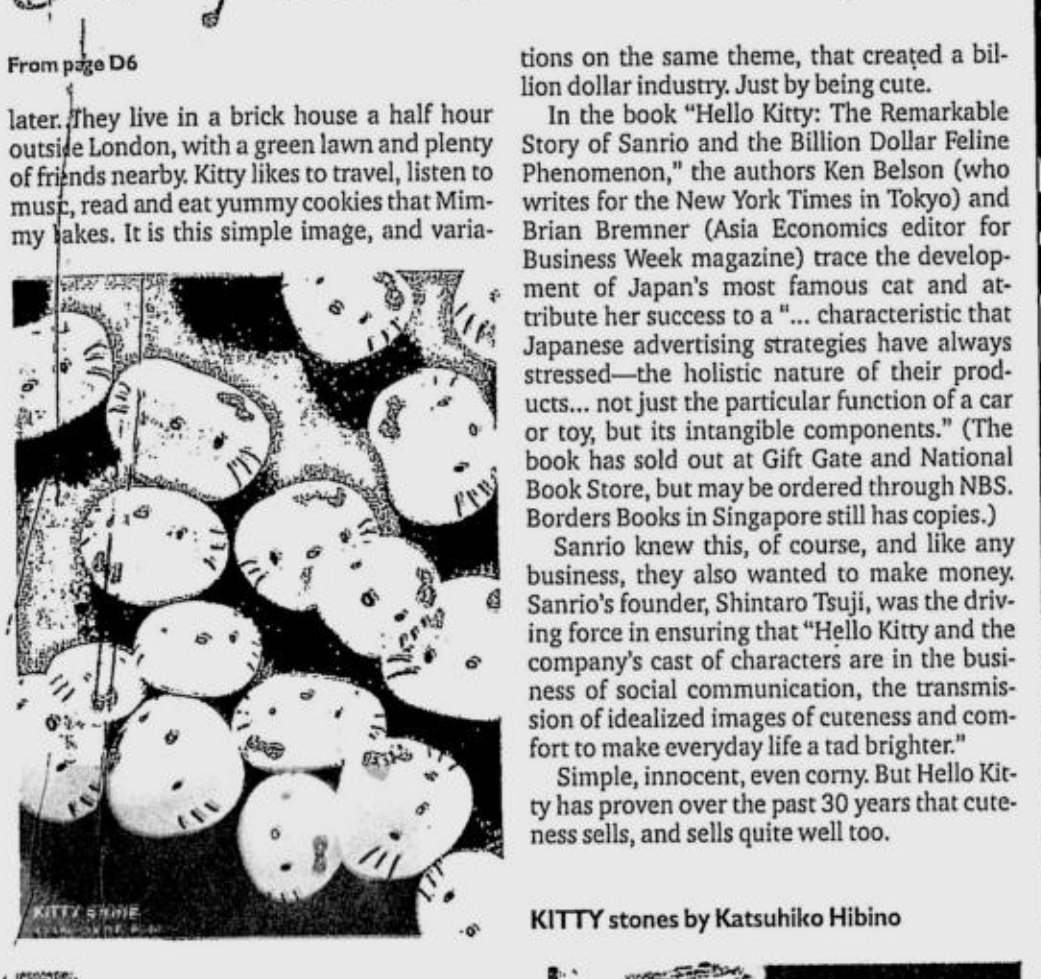
later. They live in a brick house a half hour outside London, with a green lawn and plenty of friends nearby. Kitty likes to travel, listen to music, read and eat yummy cookies that Mimmy bakes. It is this simple image, and variations on the same theme, that created a billion dollar industry. Just by being cute.

In the book "Hello Kitty: The Remarkable Story of Sanrio and the Billion Dollar Feline Phenomenon," the authors Ken Belson (who writes for the New York Times in Tokyo) and Brian Bremner (Asia Economics editor for Business Week magazine) trace the development of Japan's most famous cat and attribute her success to a "... characteristic that Japanese advertising strategies have always stressed—the holistic nature of their products... not just the particular function of a car or toy, but its intangible components." (The book has sold out at Gift Gate and National Book Store, but may be ordered through NBS. Borders Books in Singapore still has copies.)

Sanrio knew this, of course, and like any business, they also wanted to make money. Sanrio's founder, Shintaro Tsuji, was the driving force in ensuring that "Hello Kitty and the company's cast of characters are in the business of social communication, the transmission of idealized images of cuteness and comfort to make everyday life a tad brighter."

Simple, innocent, even corny. But Hello Kitty has proven over the past 30 years that cuteness sells, and sells quite well too.

KITTY stones by Katsuhiko Hibino



HAPPY Meal at McDonald's in Tokyo comes with milk, kiddie-size pancakes with strawberry and whipped-cream topping, Hello Kitty hairband and toy.

LIKE a shrine to Hello Kitty is the office of Sanrio founder Shintaro Tsuji at the Sanrio headquarters in Tokyo.

SMART and gift gate celebrate Hello Kitty's 30th birthday!

Purr-fectly cute Perfectly SMART

Purr-fect Discount!

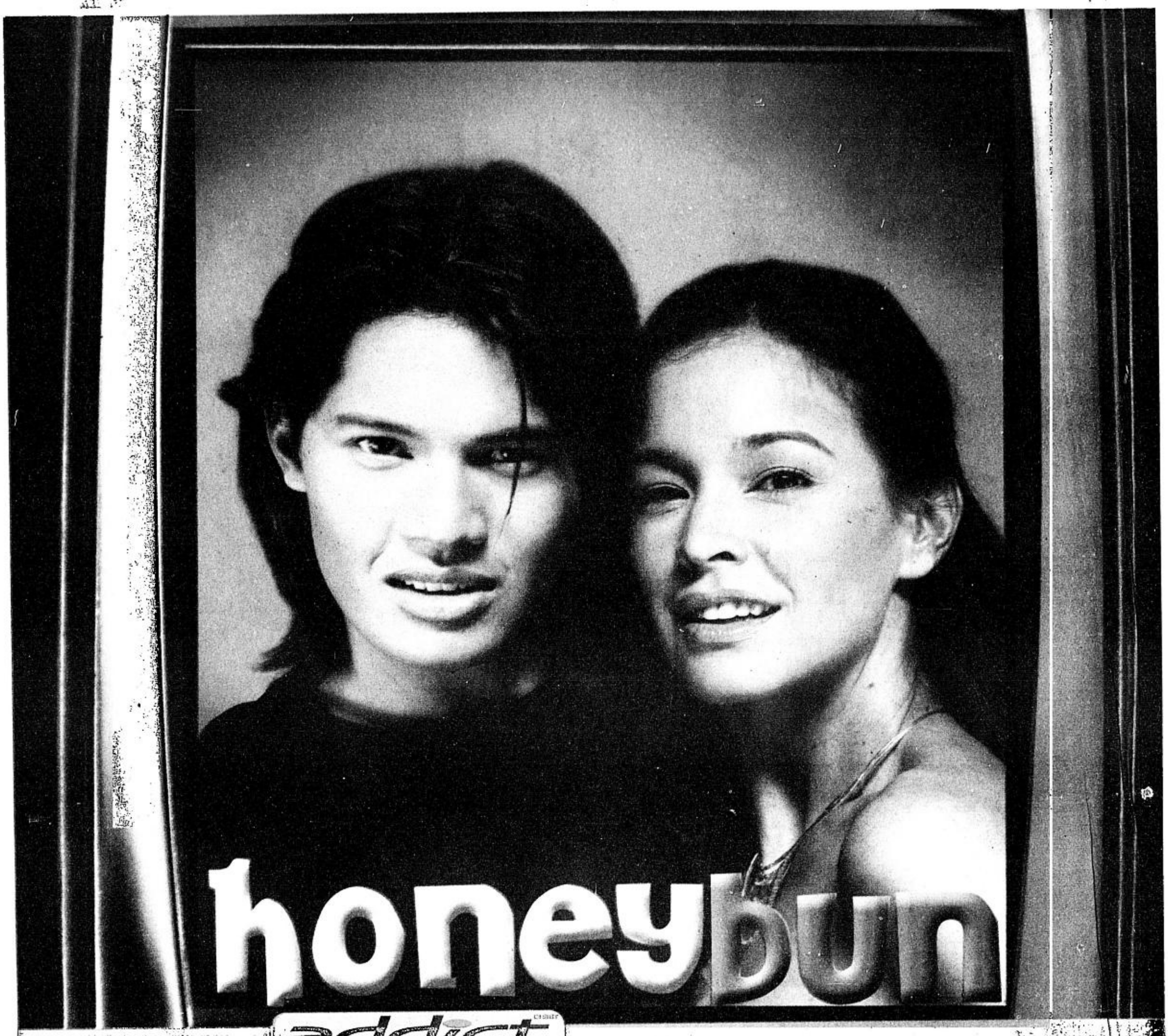
10% Discount

Promo period: October 21 – December 15, 2004

SMART Gold
gift gate
SMART Money

SMART Simply Amazing!

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 5258, Series of 2004.



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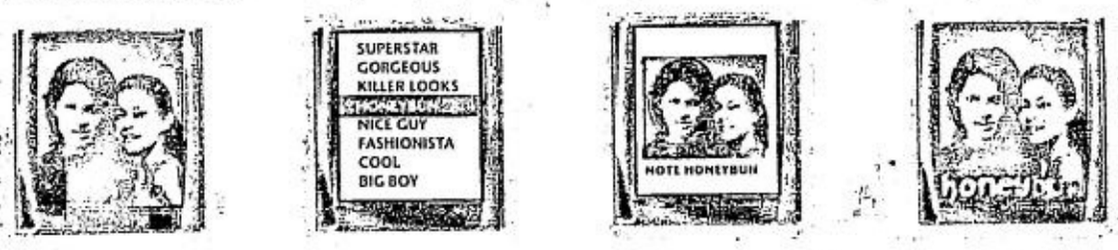

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Sunday LIFESTYLE Weddings

FAGARA-MALAYAS

Eric Dan Fagara, son of **Tereso** and **Lorenza Fagara**, will marry **Supreme Malayas**, daughter of **Armito** and **Concepcion Malayas**, on Oct. 28 at San Lorenzo Ruiz Parish Church, San Pedro, Laguna. Reception will follow at Malayas residence.

YAP-MEI KEI

Vicky Mei Kei, daughter of **Hilda Senco Lim** and **Willy Lim**, will exchange vows with **Jimmy Yap**, son of **Huang Gui Hua No**, today at Minor Basilica of San Lorenzo Ruiz, Binondo. The bride will wear a princess-cut gown made of gazaar sateen, with fine-pleated organza top and a three-meter train dyed in monochromatic hues of pink, accentuated with fabric flowers, and beaded in medallion scroll pattern of pearls, Swarovski and cut-glass crystals. The gown was designed by **Leonard Co**.

TAN-WONG

Sabrina Wong, daughter of **Nelly** and **Charles Wong**, will exchange vows with **John Arthur Tan**, son of **Segundina** and **Juan A.Y.G. Tan**, today at Manila Cathedral. The bride will wear a gown with white duchess-sateen top with frosted organdy, and a three-meter cathedral train fully embroidered in fine *cadenete* design, beaded in cut-glass and Swarovski stones, and accentuated with a touch of baby-pink crystals. The gown was designed by **Leonardo Co**.

ONG-TAN

Jennifer Tan, daughter of **Susan Tan** and **Tan Liong Juan**, will exchange vows with **Wilson Ong**, son of **Or Wing Chiu** and **Wong Sai Yan**, today at Century Park Hotel Grand Ballroom. The bride will wear a white frosted organdy gown with a tube bodice and bouffant skirt, with a three-meter train, fully beaded in floral pattern from the hips cascading down to the hemline. A big back bow accentuates the gown's semi-low back cutting. The gown was designed by **Leonard Co**.

SO-CHUA

Janice Chua, daughter of **Frederico** and **Lolita Chua**, will exchange vows with **Elvis So-Del Mundo**, son of **Corsorcia So**, today at San Sebastian Church, Plaza del Carmen, Manila.

Eric Pineda designed the bride's gown using ecru silk satin. It is embroidered in a vine-leaf pattern with rosettes made of satin soutache. Faux pearls, caviar beads and Austrian rhinestones add embellishment and texture. A 10-meter-long veil of double-width illusion tulle is held by a band of Swarovski crystals.

The female members of the entourage will wear draped gowns in coral-pink and lemon-yellow chiffon, while the principal sponsors will wear gowns of saffron silk dupioni.

Reception will follow at the Gloria Maris Shark's Fin Restaurant, Greenhills, San Juan.

Milestones

We're accepting announcements of weddings and engagements. Please send the following typewritten information: names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, gown designer and other related information. Readers can send sketches of gowns and pictures of the couple to the INQUIRER office, or P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City, or e-mail lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. This will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the sender.

WITH the Roldan family: Papa Ben, Mommy Jo, brothers BJ and Marc, Grandma Hermie, Uncle Joel and Jam

WITH secondary sponsors

TUGAOEN-ROLDAN NUPTIALS

Thoughts on a daughter's marriage

By Jo Maraca Roldan
Contributor

THE WEDDING of my daughter Johanna to Alladin P. Tugaoen recently at the Mary Cause of Our Joy Catholic Church, Soldiers Hill, Muntinlupa, was a happy occasion for our family.

At first, we felt sad that our only daughter —the princess of my husband, Benny M. Roldan—was getting married. She had been a good daughter, bringing honor to us while she was a student—and we thanked her for that.

But we were happy that our daughter got married to a very responsible young man from Marikina. We welcomed the Tugaoen family into ours with pride. We know that Alladin will be a good husband to a very good daughter.

Alladin and Johanna both work for Sun Life of Canada. They met and fell in love in Sun Life-Makati. During the short engagement (about a year), the love grew and deepened and they decided to be one.

Friends and family

The wedding was attended by very close relatives and friends.

The principal sponsors, including the brother of Johanna's father, MSgt. Arnold Roldan, were closest to our hearts.

We were grateful that Rep. Ruffy Biazon, one of the principal sponsors, attended despite his hectic schedule.

The wedding was a labor of love for both the Tugaoens and Roldans and some very close relatives and friends.

The flowers and bouquets were done by the Mother Butler's Guild of Soldiers Hills and my very good friends, Jessie Acuna and Vic Oliveros. Souvenirs and giveaways were made by Mayette and Peng, with the help of Ellen, Janet, Beth and Rommel in my Centennial Transmarine family. I want to thank Ofie Octavio for the very elegant wedding gown.

Well-attended

Alladin and Johanna wanted to make the occasion very simple, but since they were well loved, the affair was well-attended. It was a memorable one for all of us.

WITH Jameica, Eileen, Marc, Jovi, Junel and DM and the flower girls

ALLADIN and Johanna Tugaoen (nee Roldan)

WITH principal sponsors

The attendance of my brother, Joel Maravilla, credit and collection manager of ComFoods, was a surprise since he was going abroad on business. We were grateful to Fr. Rene Frias, our parish priest, who celebrated the Mass, and Fr. Ador Javier, his assistant.

Other principal sponsors were Mike Santos, lawyer Renato Peralta, engineer Tito Blanco, engineer Elmer Pulumbarit, Arnold Sarte, Ernesto Dona, Rey Mercado and Paul Teves; Lucy Quinon, Penny Abacan, Karenina Casas, Evelyn Soqueno, Annie Reusi, Claudette Estrada, Gina de Jesus, Beth Cabangis, Leonides Catly and Cierlita Riego de Dios.

Best man was Jovy Cornista, and maid of honor was Aileen Abad. Groomsman was Marc Christian Roldan and bridesmaid was Jameica Phoebe Gumbos.

Secondary sponsors were: candles—Joseph Benedict Roldan and Mariane Roldan; veil—Adam Tugaoen and Armie Roldan; cord—Allan Glenn Arengo and Diane Lynne Fuentebella; Bible bearer—Jon Elijah Fernandez, ring bearer—Diego Maurice Quinto and coin bearer—Patrick Michel Yu.

Flower girls were Anya de Leon, Charisse Ann Peralta, Famela Anne Madamba and Ariane Gaile Ariola.

Reception followed at Aurelia's Place in Muntinlupa.

The newlyweds honeymooned at Club Morocco in Subic courtesy of *Ninong* Jimmy Cabangis of Digitel/Sun Cellular and *Ninang* Beth Cabangis.

Mother's advice

To Alladin, we hope you will love our daughter the same way we loved her. We wish both of you a Christ-centered life together. Remember that marriage is not a bed of roses. Expect some rocky spots. But let love reign and keep communication lines open. Let there be trust, honesty and forgiveness in your relationship.

Grade-school children to get better 3R skills

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

SYNERGEIA Foundation, headed by Fr. Bienvenido Nebres, SJ, as chair of the board of trustees, and former Finance Undersecretary Nene Guevarra as president and chief executive officer, has taken steps to help 400,000 grade-school children in 125 municipalities of eight provinces acquire better reading and writing skills in English and improve their proficiency in Mathematics.

The children are enrolled in Synergeia's reading and mathematics program that are co-financed by local governments, corporate donors and private individuals.

In the board of trustees are Washington Sycip, founder of the SGV group of companies; Bro. Rafael Donato, FSC, president emeritus of De La Salle Lipa; Naga City Mayor Jesse Robredo, a Ramon Magsaysay Award winner; Secretary Rafael Coscolluela, former governor of Negros Occidental; Dr. Antonio Torralba of the University of Asia and the Pacific; Bro. Robert McGovern, FMS, vice president of the Notre Dame University of Dadiangas; John Silva, curator of the National Museum; Pilar Habito, president of Cahbrida Alternative School; and professor Solita Monsod, former head of the National Economic and Development Authority.

Synergeia was initially a learning circle for 17 Ford Foundation grantees working on education reforms in 2001. It became a foundation the following year to serve as a catalyst for reforms that would make quality basic education a universal right and a tool to alleviate poverty.

Tipanan exhibit

An expo-cum-fair will be held Nov. 26-28 at the Wow Philippines Clamshell Pavilion in Intramuros. Admission is free.

Expected to participate are Museo Pambata, the provinces of Nueva Vizcaya, Benguet, Isabela, Pampanga, Bulacan, Iloilo, Negros Occidental, Negros Oriental and Antique plus the cities of Lipa, Los Baños, Naga City and Marikina City.

Call 8982913/8982617 or e-mail trissa@synergeia.org.ph.

A solidarity fellowship night will be held 7:30 p.m. on Nov. 26. Invited performers are the Manila Chamber Orchestra, Jose Mari Chan, Basil Valdez, Grace Nono, Joey Ayala, The Spirit of '67 and former Secretary Bobby de Ocampo.

Student bands have been asked to perform on Nov. 27, Youth Night. Ateneo Pathways is organizing the event in cooperation with partner colleges and universities.

Oskar Atendido is events director, while Nilo Agustin, special events consultant, represents the Department of Tourism.

Feast of St. Raphael

The feast day of St. Raphael, the Archangel will be marked today. Fr. Rex Hidalgo, parish priest of the St. Raphael Church in Pili, Camarines Sur, says St. Raphael is the "angel of healing" and the one to invoke for a good husband or wife. He cites the Book of Tobit where the archangel, disguised as a young man, accompanies Tobias on a journey to collect money owed his father. In the process, Tobias finds his future wife, Sarah.

On the way, Raphael tells Tobias to catch fish in a stream and to take the innards of the fish then put them on the eyes of his blind father.

In a book lent to me by Tess Alsua who has a life-size image of St. Raphael, the archangel is described as the "overseer of the season of spring." It says:

"He is sometimes symbolized by the sun or the returning sun. He is the angel of brightness, beauty, healing and life. The name literally means 'God has healed.'" He instructs in the art of healing and thus the caduceus is often his symbol as well. He works to help humans link the heart and the mind in the healing process.

"In the Zohar, Raphael is charged to heal earth and 'through him... the earth furnishes and abode for man, whom he also heals of maladies.' He is also the angel of science and knowledge and he was the preceptor of Isaac.

"Raphael is the keeper and guardian of the most sacred symbol of the Christian Mysteries —the Holy Grail—throughout the Piscean Age. He works to awaken the Great Quest—the quest for our true spiritual essence and how best to manifest it within this life.

"He bestows valor and grace upon humanity and with a group of beings of light known as the Malachim; he is the chief bestower and bringer of miracles, coloring our lives with wonder. It is from his influence and this group known as the Malachim that our individual Holy Guardian Angel comes, to teach us and guide us as we begin to take more conscious control of our evolution."

GOV. Josie de la Cruz with Bulacan elementary school students, who are being taught better Math and English reading skills

SYNERGEIA president and CEO Nene Guevarra (third from left) with the organizing committee of Tipanan Expo: Nilo Agustin of DOT; Oskar Atendido, events director; Solvie Nubla of Ateneo Pathways; (standing) Harvey Keh, Trissa Manalastas and Anthony Medrano

Inspiring book

The Sacred Heart College in Lucena, Quezon has published a book about its founder, Fausta Labrador (1858-1942). Written and edited by Monina Allarey Mercado, it is a beautiful and inspiring book especially for those who are in the spiritual path. Hermana Fausta proved one could be holy in this life. Call Mabel Lucero at (042) 7102325.

Bazaar

Messages from Heaven Foundation is holding a bazaar, Oct. 23-24, at Forbes Park Parish Center.

Milestones

We're accepting announcements of weddings and engagements. Please send the following typewritten information: names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, gown designer and other related information. Readers can send sketches of gowns and pictures of the couple to the INQUIRER office, or P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City, or e-mail lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. This will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the sender.

LIM BIRTHDAY

Jacqueline Michelle C. Lim, daughter of lawyer **Gilda C. Lim**, recently celebrated her 21st birthday at the Brasserie 21, Security Bank Building, Ayala Avenue, Makati City.

The party theme, "Midsummer Night's Dream," was reflected in the décor of butterflies and flowers. The celebrator wore a fairy-like gown of pink, yellow, turquoise and lavender, created by **Josie Umali** of Celia Umali Exclusives.

MALATA-PEDRAJA

Aileen B. Pedraja, daughter of **Fidelito** and **Necetas Pedraja**, recently married **Paul Allan U. Malata**, son of **Apolinario** and **Adelaida Malata** at San Jose Cathedral, San Jose, Batangas. Reception followed at Bluroze Farm, Lodlod, Lipa City.

DACLAN-DELICA

Hilton Daclan, son of engineer and Ms **Antonio Daclan**, and **Gale Delica**, daughter of Mr. and Ms **Arturo Delica**, tied the knot recently at San Roque Parish, Lipata, Minglanilla, Cebu. Msgr. **Rolando Jimenez** officiated at the wedding. Reception followed at Cecina Calza's Place, Lipata, Minglanilla, Cebu.

ANTE-MCCARTHY

Spencer Eugene Ante, son of Dr. **Hermenegildo Ante** of Cotabato City and **Leslie Schoengold** of New Jersey, recently married **Erin Margarete McCarthy** of California, at the Mill Valley Art Club, San Francisco, California.

THE POOH Halloween Party at Ayala Center, Makati is on Oct. 29-Nov. 2, and Alabang Town Center, Oct. 27-30.

Halloween activities for kids

WHAT better way to celebrate Halloween than to don scary costumes, meet up with spookily dressed friends and go trick-or-treating.

This season, kids are invited to join Pooh Halloween Party at Ayala Center, Makati on Oct. 29-Nov. 2, and Alabang Town Center, Oct. 27-30.

Kids can explore Hundred Acre Woods in Halloween theme and experience Pooh's Spooky House, play in Tigger's House of Tricks or walk through Eeyore's Scary Forest.

Kids can also meet and greet and pose for pictures with their favorite characters Pooh, Piglet, Tigger and Eeyore.

Halloween Arts and Crafts Corner is where children can fashion their own masks, sponge-paint ghosts, decorate cakes and select cool Halloween tattoos.

Trick or Treat will be held on Oct. 30, 4:30 p.m., at Alabang Town Center and on Oct. 31, 4:30 p.m., at Ayala Center, Makati. Children in the spookiest and wackiest costumes will have the chance to bag prizes. Special prizes will be given to trick-and-treaters in Pooh costumes. Admission to all these events is free.

'My Funny Love Affair' story-writing contest

FUTURE brides or grooms, or both, can try their writing skills by telling their funny love stories.

They can write about unforgettable moments with their future spouses. The stories have to be funny or be told in a humorous and witty way.

The rules follow:

1. Contestant must be someone who is soon to be married and should be able to prove it. The wedding date should be between Nov. 15 and June 30, 2005.

2. Entries must be no more than two pages, double-spaced. Font size should be 12.

3. Entries should be sent by e-mail to angelswink2004@hotmail.com or paulorotti@hotmail.com. They may also be sent by snail mail to 18 Jade St., LP Royale Estates, Naga Road, Las Piñas City.

4. Entries should have the contestant's name, contact number, details of the coming wedding and a picture of the soon-to-wed couple.

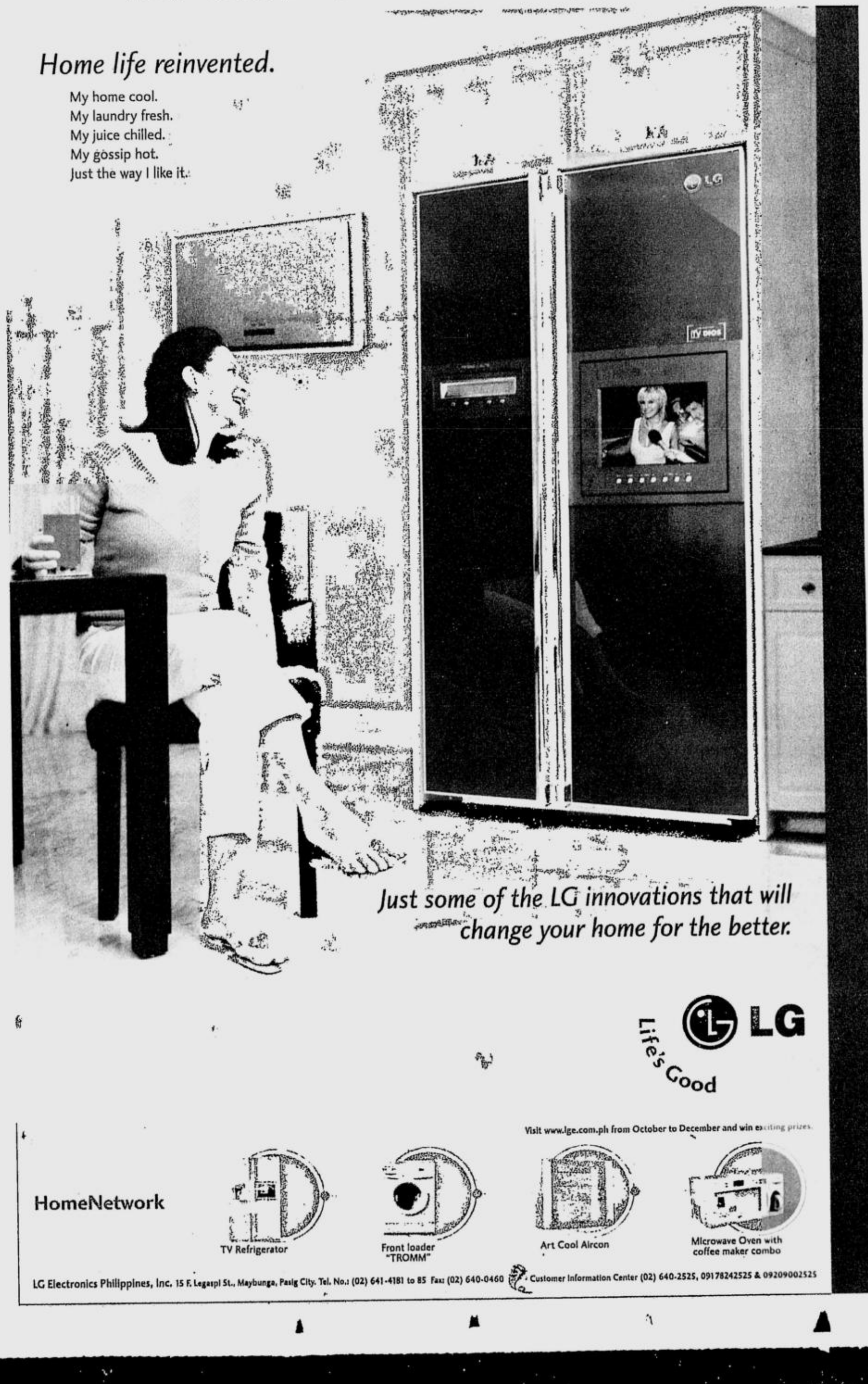
Deadline for submission of entries is Oct. 30.

Winners will receive cash prizes and gift certificates from contest sponsors and event partners.

Call 5469477 or text 0918-3122210. Visit www.angelswink.net

My Funny Love Affair Story-writing Contest for soon-to-weds was conceived by Angel's Wink Production in conjunction with its "Weddings... Get Set... Go! Bridal Fair Year 2," Nov. 6-7, at The Loft@Rockwell, cor. Estrella St. and Rockwell Drive, Rockwell Center, Makati City. The fair brings together wedding, debut and events suppliers.

Contest supporters are VS&F International Catering, Richel Mascariñas Digital Photography, Richville Hotel, Hanz Audio, Flowers Unlimited, and Scents & Blends Well-being and Fragrance Bar.



Privilege on the green with

Globe

PLATINUM

Those who possess the finer things in life find themselves among an inner circle whose membership is determined by a discriminating eye for quality and luxury. Such is the clique who appreciates the superior craftsmanship and handling of a BMW luxury car and the first-class privileges of Globe Platinum.

Ever the purveyor of the sophisticated lifestyle, Globe Platinum joined BMW Philippines in hosting the recently concluded BMW Golf Cup National Finals 2004. The BMW Golf Cup finals was the culmination of a series of golf tournaments organized by BMW dealers for their loyal clientele. It is the most prestigious amateur golfing tournament in the world, with over 100,000 participants from 39 countries vying for the honor to represent their country in the international finals, to be held this year at the New South Wales Golf and Country Club in cosmopolitan Sydney.

Seventy-seven golfing enthusiasts participated in this year's national finals, held in the lush, world-class greens of Manila Southwoods, which were designed by golfing legend Jack Nicklaus. The tournament kicked off after contestants partook of a continental breakfast buffet at the country club. BMW Philippines president Dr. Jeorg Breuer led the ceremonial tee-off, after which participants – divided into seventeen flights of four – teed off and took on the challenging course. Dotting the well-manicured landscape were the latest BMW models, displayed at strategic holes on the course and no doubt distracting quite a few golfers as they made their shots.

After the tournament, participants made their way to the country club ballroom, where they were served a sumptuous pre-awards luncheon. Society columnist Johnny Litton hosted the program that followed, where premium golfing items and coveted Globe Platinum handsets were raffled off before announcing the tournament winners. This year's champions – Fernando Imperial, Alfredo Abarintos, and Veronica Veloso for Men's Class A, Men's Class B, and Ladies categories, respectively – hope to duplicate the 2002 team's feat of bringing home the BMW Golf Cup country championship.

A golfer's precision and eye for detail is mirrored by the superior services and exclusive privileges of Globe Platinum. Existing Globe subscribers with a minimum monthly usage of P4,000 (excluding taxes and adjustments) for the last twelve months and with good credit standing are qualified for Globe Platinum membership, as are new subscribers of a G-Plan or fully consumable G-Flex Plan at P5,000, P7,000, or P10,000. Join now and experience the elite sporting life of the Globe Platinum set.

Tournament participants take a Platinum powered breakfast before a rousing round of golf.

The second runner-up in the Ladies' Guest category, Bing Barraquias of Globe Platinum shows off her winning form.

Lito German, Corporate Communications Director for BMW briefs the tournament participants about this privileged event.

BMW Philippines Dr. Jeorg Breuer caps the awarding ceremonies.

Golfing enthusiast Marco dela Fuente, flanked by Bing Barraquias of Globe Platinum and Lito German of BMW, wins a Sony Ericsson P900, courtesy of Globe Platinum.

Signing up for a taste of the privileged experience of Globe Platinum

Bing Baraquias of Globe Platinum and BMW Philippines President Dr. Jeorg Breuer award the coveted Nokia 6600 to lucky winner Peter Chan

BMW Philippines President Dr. Jeorg Breuer with this year's champions.

Connoisseurs of the Platinum lifestyle: Johnny Litton with the participants of the BMW Golf Cup National Finals 2004

Find game cards in Kodak films for a chance to win instant cash prizes. Promo until December 31, 2004.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3814, Series of 2004

A little showcase of Asian art and culture

BALINESE double doors lead to the powder room.

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Mandy Navasero

WRITER and antiques dealer Marlene Aguilar has always been fascinated by the East. This fascination hasn't waned a bit despite 14 years of living in the United States. In fact, her love affair with the Orient even grew stronger.

"You'll appreciate the East even more when you get to compare it with the West, especially the US," says Aguilar, younger sister of singer-songwriter Freddie Aguilar. "I have nothing against Americans and some of the things they stand for, but their culture simply pales in comparison with the richness and diversity found in Asia."

Like many students of the University of the Philippines, the martial-law regime disillusioned her so she left the country in the 1970s. Not that Aguilar is your usual firebrand activist. In fact, she exudes genuine warmth and can be touchy-feely and animated, especially when talking about subjects close to her heart.

Committed

Don't let her soft, gentle demeanor fool you, though, for she's known by friends and family to pursue her projects with boundless

ANTIQUE wooden statue of Quanyin

Marlene Aguilar, sister of the singer, makes her home concrete proof of her love for things Oriental

energy and unwavering conviction. One such project is her recently launched coffee-table book, "Encyclopedia of Philippine Art," now available at all leading bookstores and art galleries.

But one of Aguilar's biggest personal undertakings that reflect her reverence for Asia is the rustic, two-story home she shares with British husband Steve Pollard and their three kids in Quezon City.

The couple bought the house and lot a few years ago, but it took Aguilar and a team of seven workers 10 months to overhaul the place totally (including the courtyard and swimming pool) and turn it into a repository of Asian antiques and reproductions.

Nearly every part of the house had to go except the shell. Aguilar infused the smooth white walls with character by replacing them with bricks taken piece by piece from old, forgotten wells in Northern Luzon. She had the white, nondescript ceiling raised and replaced with *narra* brackets. Even the bland marble floor had to go in favor of either warm parquet or richly hued Vigan tiles.

Balinese garden

But one of the most radical changes Aguilar and her team did was to allow the outside in by turning windows into huge double doors that lead to the lush, Balinese-style garden she herself designed (*see related story on page G1*). She didn't settle for ordinary doors, mind you, but for grand entrances made of carved antique doors and doorjambs from India, China and Bali.

The receiving area's Balinese sliding door comes with intricate carvings that give a peek into the pool area beyond when closed. Slid-

A LITTLE/ F2

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INTRODUCTION TO SOUTH BEACH DIET WITH A PINOY TWIST
Interpreted by Jacqueline Haessig Alleje, owner of Rizal Dairy Farm, Swiss – Pinoy restaurateur (Vieux Chalet Restaurant), organic caterer & food consultant (Petra's naturally green, global, gourmet)

November 8 (Monday) 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. SOUTH BEACH DIET PHASE I P2,000* This class will guide you through the theory and the recipes of Phase I – the strictest phase of the diet and how to prepare them in your home. All participants will be weighed on the on set of the program.
November 22 (Monday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. SOUTH BEACH DIET PHASE II P2,000 * This class continues the discussion on the diet & healthy nutrition with recipes of Stage II. Participants will share their experience from stage I.
December 6 (Monday) 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. SOUTH BEACH DIET PHASE III P2,000 * Introduction to the most liberal stage of the diet with complete meal plan & discussion on how to create your own recipes by including your favorite dishes in your diet
Students who will enroll in the whole program will be given 10% discount in the tuition fee.
In-house Chefs will now prepare South Beach Diet meals for your convenience. Food orders for South Beach Diet Phase I will start November 15. Food orders for South Beach Diet Phase II will start November 29. Only 20 clients will be accommodated so hurry now and make your reservation.
For inquiries look for Lirio or Rita and call 726-5316 & 412-7792.

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

November 3 (Wednesday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom A) COOKIE WORKSHOP by: Chef Jackie Ang Po, Pastry Chef of Fleur de Lys Patisserie, dean's list graduate, California Culinary Academy* Chocolate Crinkles, Chocolate Chip Cookies, Lengua de Gato, Gingersnaps, Lace Oatmeal Cookies, Ladyfingers (Broas) and Russian Tea Cookies. P2,500

November 3 (Wednesday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom B) HOMEMADE SAUSAGES, CONDIMENTS by: Chef Jane Paredes, Food Consultant, co-owner of Simply Desserts trained at the Culinary Institute of America Hyde Park, New York and Peter Kump's New York Cooking School. *Discover ways to transform meat, poultry & seafood into profitable menu items. SAUSAGES: Chorizo Bilbao, Longanisa Hongga, Italian Sausage, Seafood Sausage & Mexican Sausage. CONDIMENTS: Honey-Mustard Sauce, Sweet Pickles Chips & Atchara; MARINADE: Homemade Tapa, Homemade Bulgogi & Tocino, DISHES: Sausage, Sauerkraut & Potato Casserole & Country Style Pork & Beans. P2,500

November 4 (Thursday)9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m (classroom A) BASIC CAKES & ICING FOR BEGINNERS by: Heny Sison * Butter Cake with Butter Icing, Moist Chocolate Cake with Fudge Icing, Mocha Cake with No-Melt Butter Icing, Lemon Chiffon Cake with Boiled Icing & Sponge Cake with Whipped Cream Icing P1,500

November 4 (Thursday)2:00 – 5:00 p.m.(classroom A) CHRISTMAS BARS & COOKIES by: Heny Sison* Food for the Gods, Carmela's Bar, Oatmeal Lace Cookies, Macaroon Cups, Revel Bar and Macadamia Cookies. P1,500

November 5 (Friday)9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m (classroom A)TALKING BREADS: A WORKSHOP by: Chef Jill Sandique, Food Stylist & Consultant, Blue Ribbon graduate of Peter Kump's New York Cooking School Chung Sik Bao (Chinese Buns), Meat Floss Buns, Pineapple Skin Bread, Mexican Bread, Green Tea Twist, Red BeanTwist, Peanut Twist, Jam Rolls, Pineapple Braid, Coconut Buns, Custard & Chocolate Chips, Fruit & Custard, Meat Floss & Ham Sandwich, Mixed Vegetable Braid, Bacon Bun, Meat Floss & Puff Pastry Sandwich, Spring Onion Roll, Sweet Corn & Ham, Pizza Bread, Ham & Egg and Spinach and White Sauce Bun. P2,500

November 6 (Saturday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom A)COFFEE & TEA CLASS by: Chef Jane Paredes* Fundamentals of coffee & tea preparation. From basic brewing to specialty beverages. How to accompany coffee & tea with pastries, sandwiches & other savory bites will be covered. Full participation. P2,500

November 9 – 10(Monday – Tuesday)9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom A) CAKE DECORATING COURSE I by: Heny Sison* Learn the basics of cake decorating: icing, color, star, shell, dots, outline and scallop borders; the rose, figure piping: clowns & boobies. Each student will bake & decorate a character birthday cake. Full participation.P4,000

November 11 (Wednesday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom A) INTRODUCTION TO JAPANESE COOKING: WORKSHOP by: Chef Koichi Kondo, licensed cook from Ehime, Japan and food consultant to various Japanese restaurants. * Learn all-time favorites Japanese dishes applicable to home & professional cooking such as: Sushi, Sashimi, Miso Soup, Tempura, Teriyaki, Udon Noodles in Clay Pot, Chicken Teriyaki & Japanese Fried Rice. P2,500

November 13 (Saturday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m (classroom A) <New Class!> FOOD COST MANAGEMENT by: Gianella Rodriguez, General Manager of Foodparks by Raintree. Graduate of Cornell University and Culinary Institute of America * Budgeting and Profit Planning, Cost Ratios, Computing Food Cost and Control Procedures

November 15 (Monday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m (classroom A) <New Class!> VEGETARIAN COOKING PART II by: Jacqueline Haessig Alleje* Creamy Tarragon Tomato Soup, Organic Mezclun Salad with Red Beets on naturally fermented vinegar vinaigrette , Mushroom and Tofu Stroganoff (served with organic brown rice), Fresh Pineapple Marinated in Kirsch, Mousse of Lentils Soup, Salad of Tomatoes, Celery & Cucumber, Grilled Zucchini with Lemon Yoghurt (served with pita bread), Chilled Swiss Quark Cake and Carrot Cake. P1,800

November 19 (Friday)10:00 – 4:00 p.m.(classroom A) DIMSUM II by: Chef Katherine Sion, restaurateur (Ding Hao & Fat Kat restaurant), caterer and an expert in Chinese cuisine.* Steamed Pork Spareribs in Tausi Sauce, Chicken Siomai, Sharkskin Siomai, Two Colors Siomai, Wanton Mami and Egg Tart. P1,500

November 20 (Saturday)10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (Classroom A) FRESH PASTA WORKSHOP by: Chef Giorgio Bucciarelli, Master Pizzaiolo & Barista, food consultant of various Italian restaurants all over Metro Manila, graduated at Culinary Institute, Milan, Italy* Learn how to make pasta egg dough, green spinach dough, black pasta dough, different kinds of pastas: lasagna, green lasagna, ravioli, tortellini, cannelloni, fettuccine: green & black, stuffings for ravioli, tortellini and cannelloni. Sauces for lasagna, tortellini, ravioli & cannelloni. Recipes: Lasagna alla Bolognese, Lasagna al 4 Formaggi, Lasagna al Pesto, Cannelloni alla Ricotta and Spinaci, Ravioli alla Boscaiola al Burro e Salvia, Tortellini ai 4 Formaggi, alla Panna Prosciutto e Funghi, Green Fettuccine alla Montanara, Black Fettuccine ai Frutti di Mare. Demonstration with student participation. P2,500

November 23 (Tuesday)9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom A) SECRETS NO MORE! by: Heny Sison* Decadent Chocolate Cake with Fudge Icing & Caramel Sauce, Lemon Torte, Ensaymada, Almond Sanzrival, Strawberry Shortcake & Ube Cake. P3,000

November 24 (Wednesday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom A) EDIBLE GIFTS FOR CHRISTMAS II by: Chef Jill Sandique* Angel Food Cake, Date Walnut Bars, Monkey Bread, Lemon Squares, Chocolate Pecan Cookies & Marble Pound Cake P1,500

November 24 (Wednesday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom B)DOUGHNUT WORKSHOPby: Chef Jane Paredes* Recipes: Sugar, Honey – Glazed, Caramel Pecan, Chocolate Nut, Mango Glazed, Chocolate Bavarian, Blueberry Filled, Strawberry Filled, Apple Filled, Twist Cinnamon Sugar, Dulce de Leche, Cream Cheese Honey Boston Cream, Sour Cream Cake Doughnut & Creamy Glazed.P 2,500

November 25 (Thursday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. POPULAR CHINESE DISHES FOR CATERING 3 by: Chef Katherine Sion* West Lake Soup, Boneless Barbecue Chicken Chinese Style, Sliced Beef with Broccoli in Oyster Sauce, Fried Shrimp with Spicy Sauce, Crispy Bihon with Assorted Meats, Fried Rice with Salted Fish and Fried Wanton with Apple Filling. P1,700

November 29 (Monday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom A) <New Class!> NON-VEGETARIAN COOKING PART II By: MS. Jacqueline Haessig Alleje* Broiled Maya-maya with Rosemary (served with marble potato and glazed carrots), Almond Parfait, Mixed Vegetable Salad, Fish-Cheese Spread (for canapes or home made gourmet sandwiches) and Tortilla de Patatas Festival. Learn the basic Spanish "tortilla de patatas" in its different versions to prepare full meals, or as cocktails P1,700

November 30(Tuesday)9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.BASIC FLOWER ARRANGEMENT by: Glenn Remorca, floral designer* Learn the theories, styles, trends, techniques, sourcing, flower care & maintenance, basic form, arrangements and flower for wedding. Lecture, demonstration and hands-on production. Bring a pair of scissors. P2,500

HENY SISON AT JULIUS MAGGI KITCHEN
NESTLE BLDG. # 31 PLAZA DRIVE, ROCKWELL CENTER, MAKATI

November 3 (Wednesday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. MY FAVORITE CAKES *Caramel Cake II, Banana Nut Cake, Pandan – Macapuno Cake, Flourless Chocolate Cake, Peach Walnut Torte and Brazo de Mercedes. P1,500

November 29 (Monday)9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY RECIPES* Dark Fruitcake, White Fruitcake, Walnut Torte, Rum-Raisin Walnut Cheesecake, Festive Cookie Bar & Prune Bar. P1,500

November 30 (Tuesday)9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon BROWNIES & BARS * Chewy Moist Brownies, Carrot Cake Bars with Cream Cheese Icing, Lemon Cheesecake Bars, Brownies with Caramel Centers and Butterscotch Bars. P1,500

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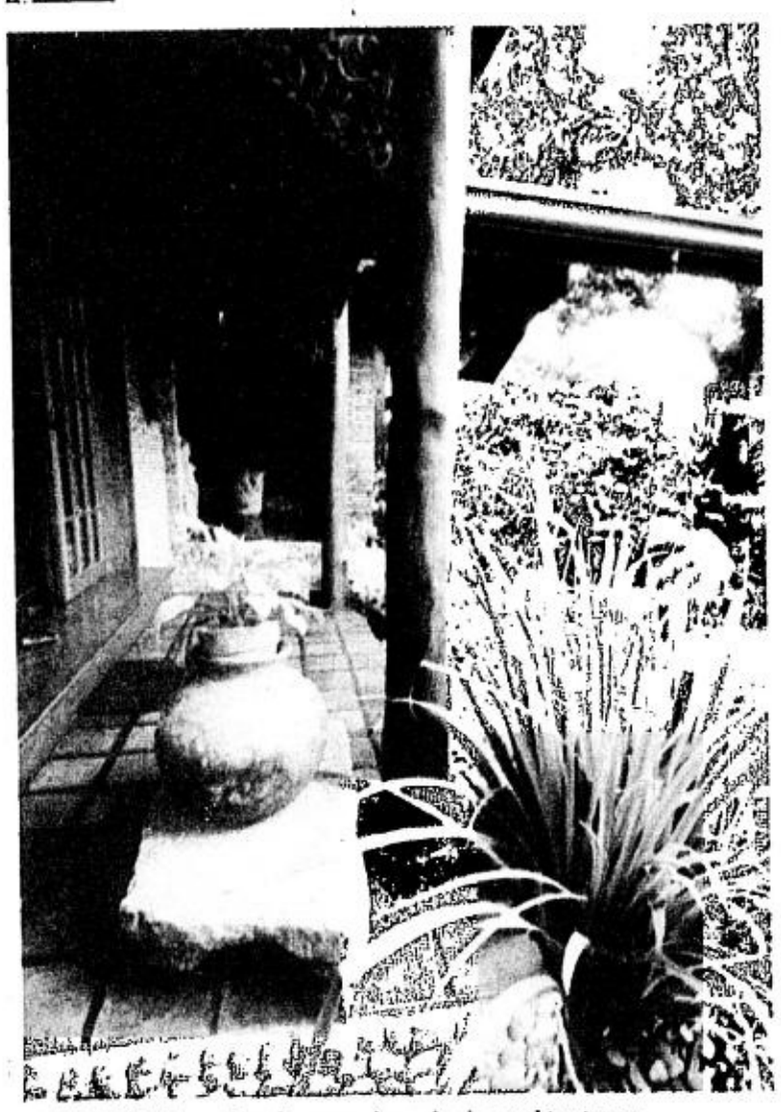
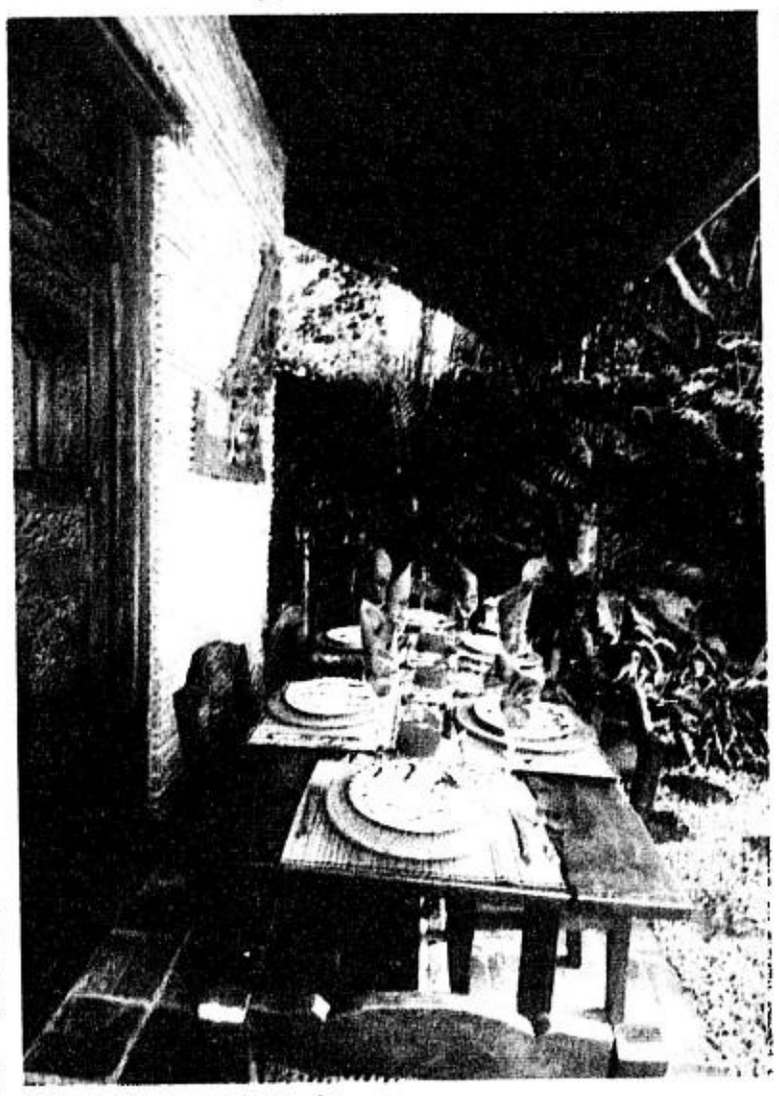
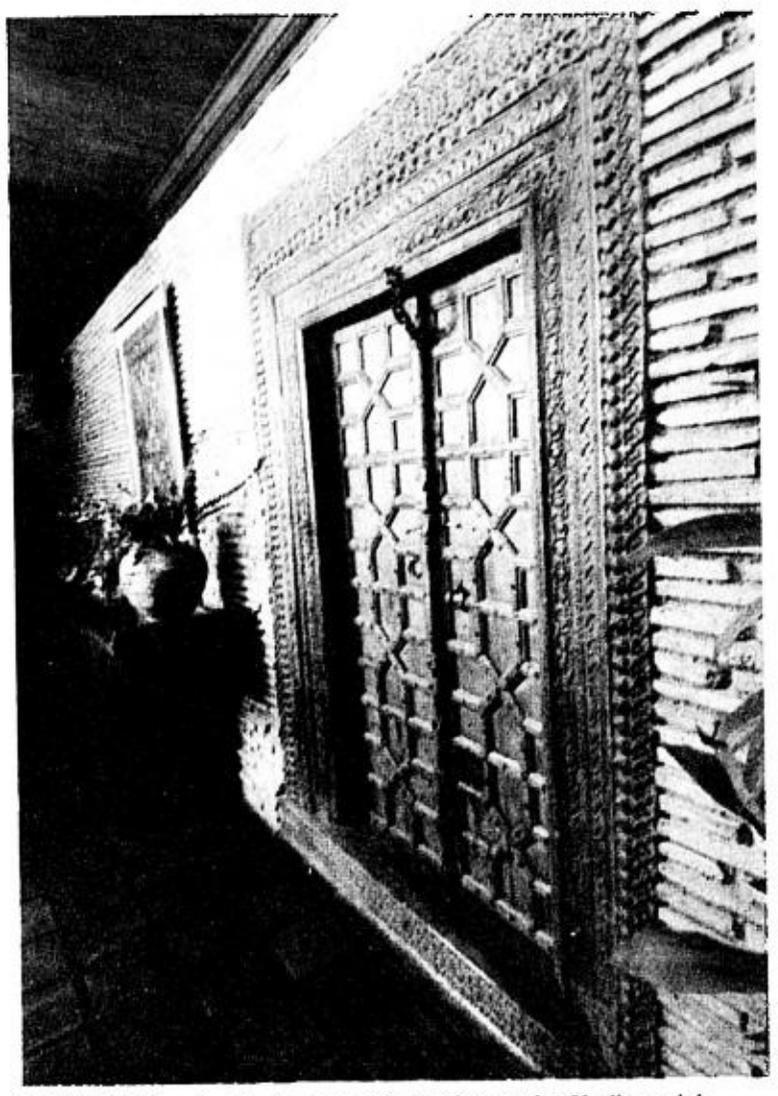


COURTYARD portico shows various shades and textures.

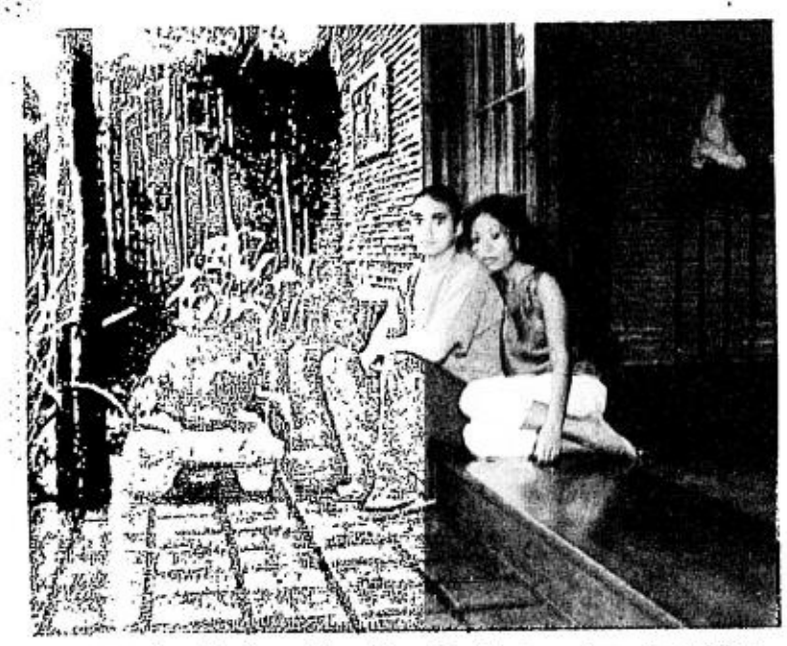


AL fresco dining by the garden

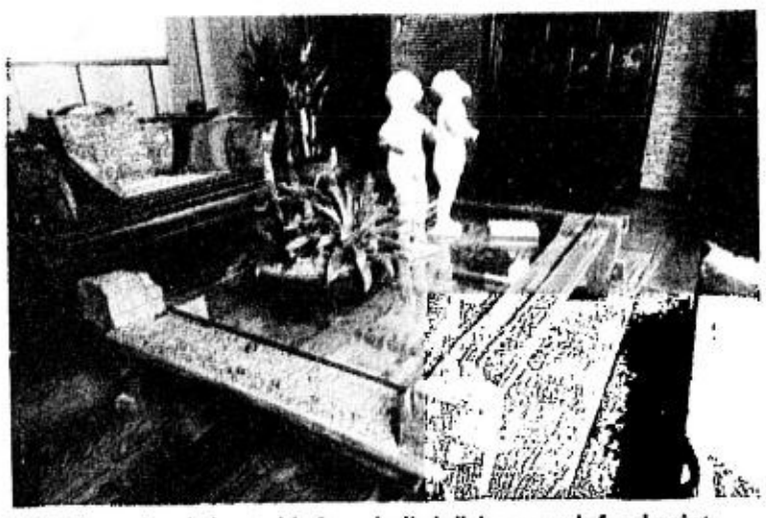


DOUBLE doors leading to one of the bedrooms is of Indian origin.

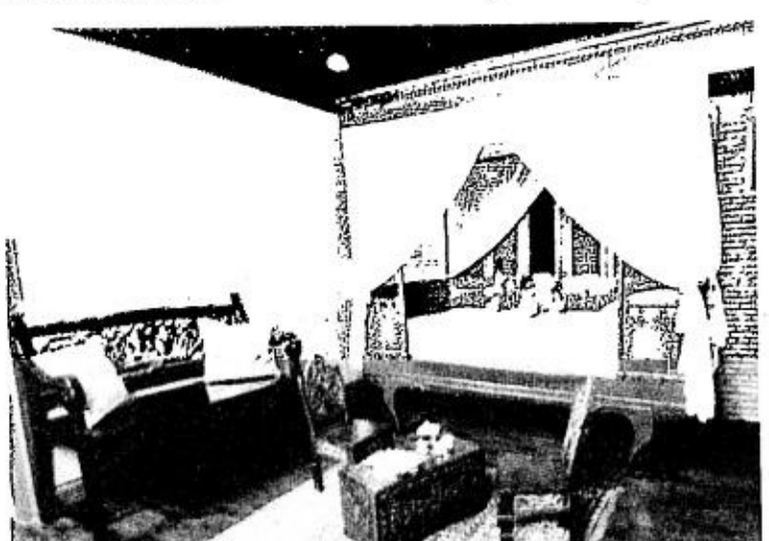
A little showcase of Asian art and culture



ANAK. Marlene Aguilar with son from her first marriage, Jason Ivler



HUGE wood and glass table from India is living room's focal point.



YOUNGEST child Maya's bedroom

SLIDING door of Balinese origin by the receiving area leads to the courtyard.

From page F1

ing windows are fashioned from stained glass and wrought iron sourced from old houses in the provinces.

Aside from being the project's manager, Aguilar, who majored in arts and psychology, also doubled as "engineer and architect." Where does this tiny lady, who later assumed the role of interior designer, get her energy?

"The mere idea of transforming a place into something new stimulates me," she says. "I don't allow myself to be bogged down by rules when I work on a project, especially when it comes to interior design. I can't even draw a straight line, but I can measure with my eye."

Offers to buy

Not a few friends have thus asked Aguilar to help them redesign their homes. Some want to buy the newly refurbished house. She has no problems with that, but her husband has.

After seeing all the hard work she put into it, Pollard, who shares his wife's love for Asian art and lets her do as she pleases, doesn't want her to part with her dream project. Pollard has lived outside his native United Kingdom for most of his adult life. The couple has traveled to such countries as Burma, Indonesia, Fiji and Morocco.

For the time being, Aguilar has acceded to her husband's request to keep the house.

"I have no attachment to material things," she says. "Besides, I can probably do a much better job next time. My husband, however, feels that I've put my heart and soul into this house."

The decision to stay put is also prompted by practical considerations. For one, Jamayco (tel. nos. 6475790 and 6817912), the antiques store Aguilar owns and manages, is a few blocks away from the house.

The store carries, among other items, antique chairs, day beds and chest cabinets from such Asian countries as China, India, Thailand and Indonesia. Stuff from China is further divided into items from Old Cathay and Tibet.

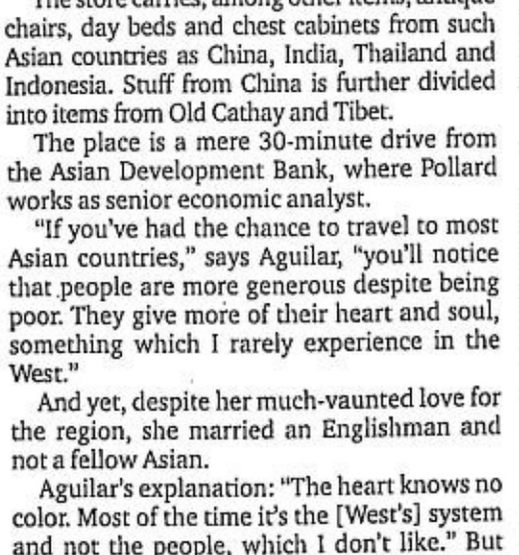
The place is a mere 30-minute drive from the Asian Development Bank, where Pollard works as senior economic analyst.

"If you've had the chance to travel to most Asian countries," says Aguilar, "you'll notice that people are more generous despite being poor. They give more of their heart and soul, something which I rarely experience in the West."

And yet, despite her much-vaunted love for the region, she married an Englishman and not a fellow Asian.

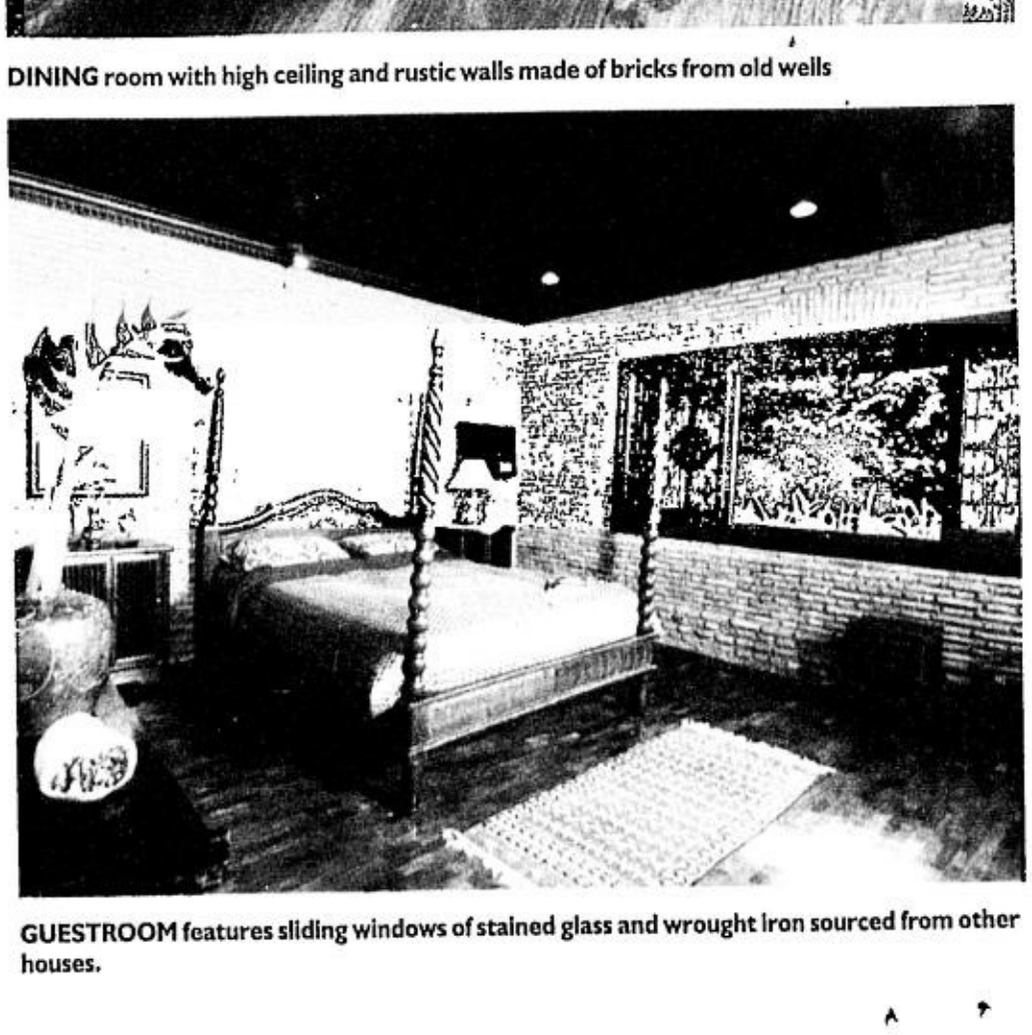
Aguilar's explanation: "The heart knows no color. Most of the time it's the [West's] system and not the people, which I don't like." But given a choice between Asian and Western culture and aesthetics, her preference is evident for all the world to see.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph



AGUILAR with daughter Maya and husband Steve Pollard

DINING room with high ceiling and rustic walls made of bricks from old wells



GUESTROOM features sliding windows of stained glass and wrought iron sourced from other houses.

Grass is really greener on the other side of Metro Manila

SEEING GREEN

Doris Gaskell Nuyda

THESE past few weeks, this corner devoted itself to the inanities of those who think they are solving traffic and other road problems by cutting down trees. Between that and the textbook mess at the Department of Education, it was beginning to look like we were turning into a desert—environmentally and mentally. The outlook for the future seemed grim.

And then we joined some friends on two field trips on different days—one to Silang, Cavite, and the other to Calamba and Los Baños, Laguna. We were glad we did.

Those places were like salves on a painful sore. They assured us that people were still planting trees, still growing flowers, and still concerned with the richness of the soil. We soaked in that knowledge gratefully.

Cavite and Laguna are still green, we realized.

Ponderosa's gardens

Our destination in Silang was the Ponderosa Flower Garden Community—a revisit actually—to witness tree-planting activities along its streets.

Estate developer Landco had promised early on that trees would be planted throughout the 53-ha farm. And now they were fulfilling that promise, "installing" the first batch of over 3,000 trees earmarked for the purpose.

One of those who actually pushed shovel to earth was a young boy, son of a lot owner, an act whose symbolism was not lost on those present. It represented the passing of a legacy of love for nature from one generation to the next—what environmental sustainability is all about.

Standard tree-planting guidelines were followed, such as planting trees eight meters apart from one another throughout a specified stretch to allow them to "breathe."

In keeping with its name, the trees chosen to line Ponderosa's streets were Benguet and Mindoro varieties of pine. According to Alfred Xeres-Burgos III, vice president and group head of Landco's sister company, Leisure Farms, landscape designers also liked the linear look of the pines.

But property owners can plant other trees in their own lots.

A completed area, El Refugio, one of three theme gardens set up by Ponderosa president Ma. Luisa Perez-Rubio, is already blooming with scented flowers, bushes and trees. With a well-laid out lawn and a rock pool, it is offered as a meditation area for a city-stressed resident or visitor.

The garden farm's big attraction, of course, continues to be its rows of greenhouses full of roses—pink, red, white and variations thereof.

Calamba and Los Baños

Before reaching the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB), where the Los Baños Orchid Society (LBOS) was holding its annual garden show, our group made a stopover at Ding Hao Kitchen, as much to taste the delicious Chinese cuisine it is noted for as to meet its owner, Vic Chin, and visit his garden at the back lot.

Chin is well known internationally for his garden flowers and is often asked to preside in garden shows abroad. He propagates and popularizes several kinds of flowering plants, and those in his care are as beautiful as you can wish.

An eye-catcher is the euphorbia, a hybrid that comes in peach, yellow, pink and red, ultra colorful when gathered in a cluster. Then there is the dianthus, a relative of the carnation, as well as vari-colored portulacas, *gumamela, sangumay* and mini roses, all to-die-for.

We see more of them at Robelle Garden Center in San Pedro where Chin has a retail outlet like Jean Lasap, president of the LBOS in which Chin is also a member. These garden lovers are obviously not stingy about their new acquisitions because they seem to enjoy sharing samples and information.

The trip to the Los Baños garden show was part of the wellness therapy program conducted by the UP-PGH Cancer Institute, chaired by Dr. Cecilia L. Llave. The institute maintains a healing garden in its premises, a project supported by the LBOS and the Osewa ("caring for you") Club which believe that nature is the best healer.

Horticulture proved to be a favored subject among patients and visitors during wellness therapy lectures, and this trip was an extension of those lectures. So the group was especially excited about garden-tripping that day.

It was not only flowers that drew our attention on that trip.

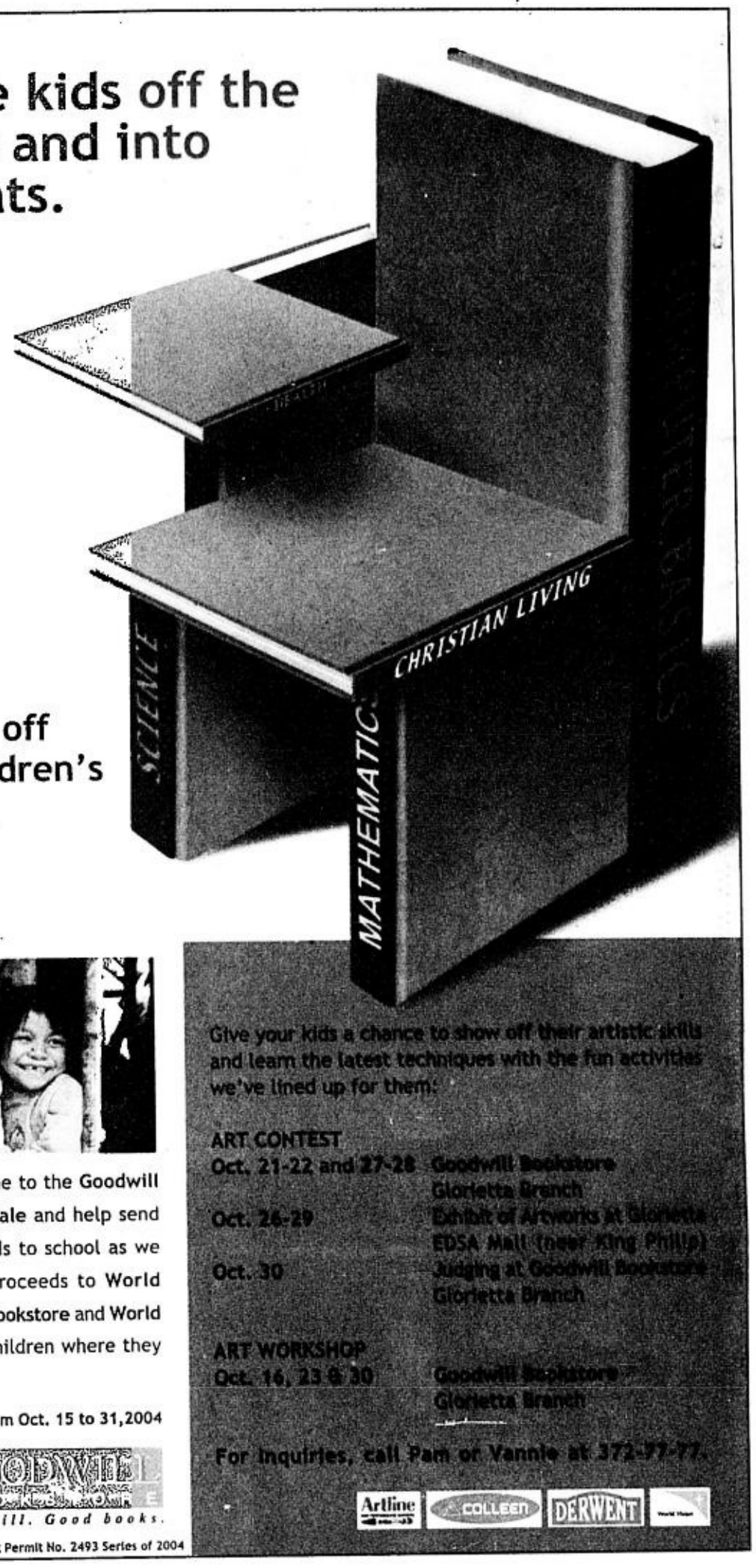
Healing plants

The Medicinal Plants Garden, under the supervision of professor Ernesta G. Quintana, were also on view at another side of the UPLB campus. We were glad to know that some herbs and plants have curative properties and can serve as alternatives to manufactured pills and tablets prescribed to us.

Just as awe-inspiring in the site were the ancient acacias that loomed over all of us like friendly giants spreading their branches wide in a leafy embrace that shelter us from the heat. We can sure use such trees in hot, dust-polluted Manila.

E-mail the author at dorisnuyda@yahoo.com

Get the kids off the streets and into the seats.



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Promo duration is from Oct. 15 to 31,2004

Goodwill. Good books.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2493 Series of 2004

Give your kids a chance to show off their artistic skills and learn the latest techniques with the fun activities we've lined up for them:

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Oct. 21-22 and 27-28 — Goodwill Bookstore Glorietta Branch
Oct. 26-29 — Exhibit of Artworks at Glorietta EDSA Mall (near King Philip)
Oct. 30 — Judging at Goodwill Bookstore Glorietta Branch

ART WORKSHOP
Oct. 16, 23 & 30 — Goodwill Bookstore Glorietta Branch

For inquiries, call Pam or Vannie at 372-77-77.

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Pre-Christmas sale

HANDYMAN Do It Best is holding a "Jolly Days Sale" until Nov. 11 simultaneously in Handyman Do It Center in Robinsons Place Novaliches, Handyman Do It Best in Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Place Metro East, Ermita, Sta. Rosa and Festival Mall, Alabang.

As a Christmas bonus to Handyman shoppers, from Oct. 29-Dec. 31, get a chance to win a brand-new Toyota Vios with every P300 purchase inclusive of any Philips products, FedSeal, Mess Out car shampoo, Lakbayan bags, Baron television antenna, Aquabloc, and Pylox spray paints.

XMAS buntings are on sale at Handyman Do It Best.

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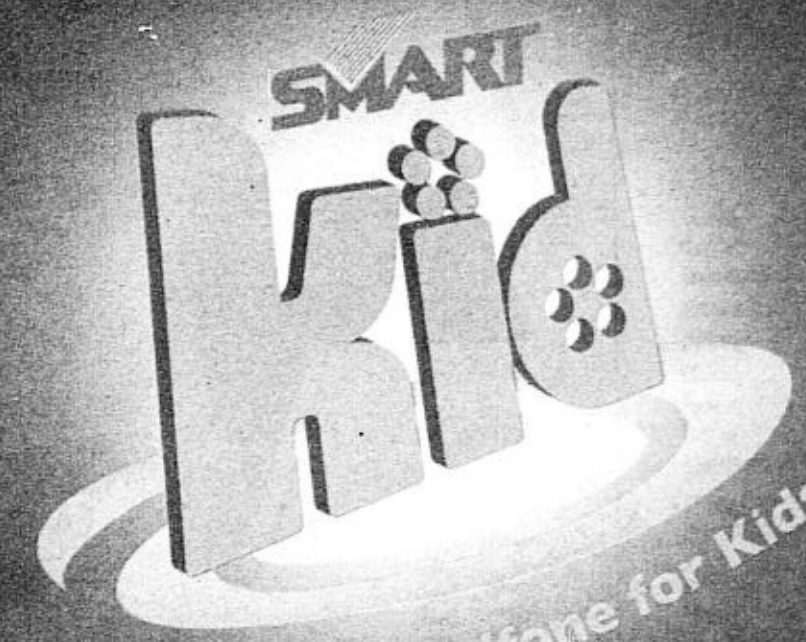

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- **Visit the SMART Kid booth and get free Halloween treats. Special prizes await SMART Kid subscribers.**

Avail of the SMART Kid FREE Nokia 3315 Promo at all SMART Wireless Centers Nationwide from October 2 to 31, 2004 only. Call our SMART Sales Hotline at 848 8882 for more details.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 5022 Series of 2004

Get your Nick on!
Catch our hair-raising Halloween Special "SHRIEK WEEK" and scare yourself silly all week from October 25-31 at 6 pm on Nickelodeon-TV Just for Kids!

For questions, comments or concerns, you may call the SMART Hotline at 888 1111; send a text message to 888 (standard rate in excess of the FREE TEXT allocation applies); email us at smartkid@smart.com.ph; Visit our website at www.smart.com.ph; or visit the SMART Wireless Center nearest you. See flyers for more details.

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Magical moments in a fairy garden

Text by Tita V. Giron
Photos by Mandy Navasero

UNSEEN spirits may be frolicking by the waterfalls.

VIEWED from across the street, nothing in the front garden of Marlene Aguilar suggests the fairy garden a friend raved about. "A fairy garden on the ridge, landscaped by a nature lover" was how it was described.

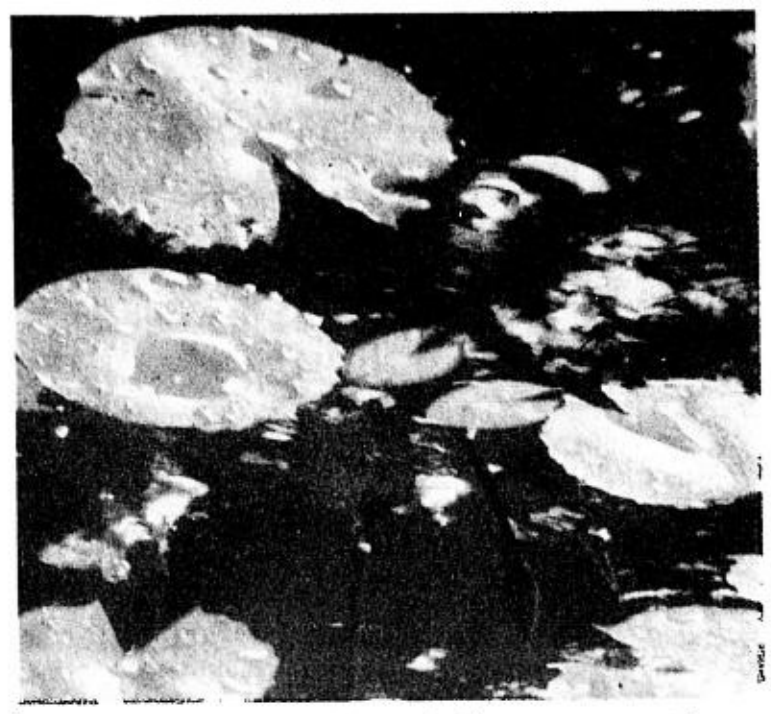
Thus, we expected something more at the gate than the lichens that greeted us, the moss, the imposing *macopa* tree whose trunk was home to ferns, an orchid, and a vine with curtain roots.

But that impression changed shortly as we approached the small ante-garden at the foyer of Aguilar's stone house. The grass was lush and green, and so were the schiefritzii palms, heliconias, syngoniums and aglaonemas. There were nooks and crannies, just the kind of spots where fairies supposedly love to frolic.

Buddha, not a fairy

But instead of the fairy statues and toad-

MAGICAL/ G2



FAIRIES may be casting pixie dusts and sitting unseen among the lotus pads.

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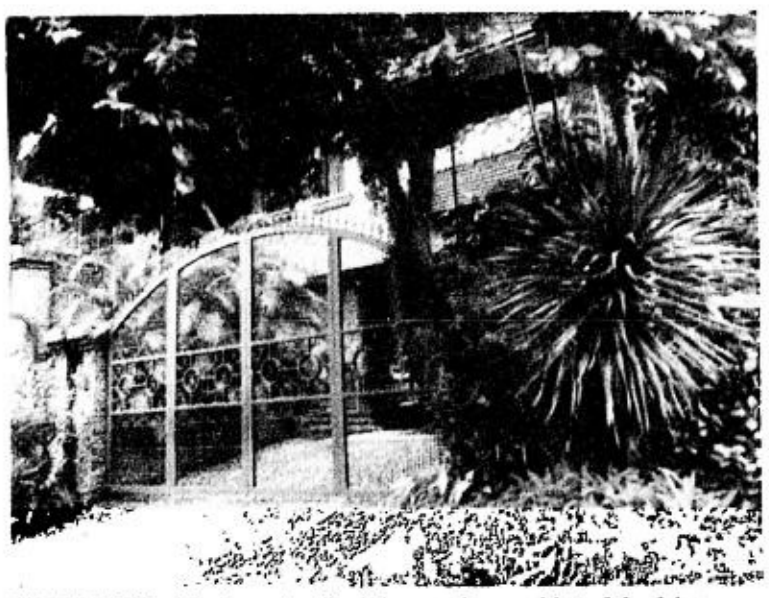
Magical moments in a fairy garden



THE FRONT of Marlene Aguilar's home gives no hint of the fairy garden inside.

SHELTERED side garden is for nursing weak plants kept indoor for a long time.

From page G1

stool accessories we anticipated, there was a statue of Buddha—bigger than life—squatting in the garden.

In folklore, a "faerie garden" is defined as "a quiet place where faeries live and tend to flowers amongst wildlife, and running water." Fairies, along with nature spirits, are said to jointly care for the plants and replenish them with their energies.

As we discovered in no time, Buddha's nook was the small meditation garden. The bigger one was the "faerie garden" where Aguilar, her children, and husband Steve Pollard communed with nature.

"Just sitting there on the stones, or soaking in the swimming pool, empties the mind of negative thoughts. This is where I assimilate nature," she rhapsodizes as nature music played softly on the sound system.

Inspiring place

"This place is magical to me. I don't actually see the nature spirits, but I feel them. I know they're the ones that move me and inspire me so," Aguilar says.

She recalls landscaping her faerie garden in just a few days. "I was so driven. A moving force guided me to arrange the rocks, stone, ornamental plants and swimming pool in the right places," she says.

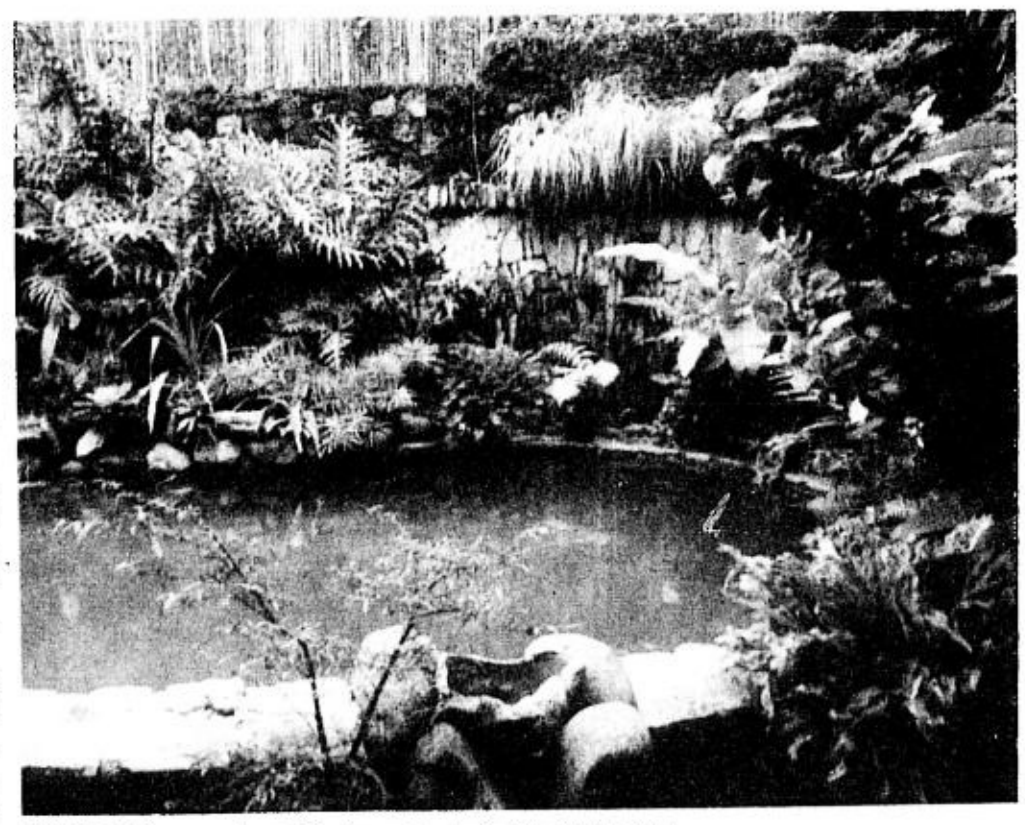
Around the elevated swimming pool are *aral-al* rocks, river stones and piedra china.

Snuggled in between them are a merry mix of sansevierias, lots of variegated ornamental plants, aroids, ginger plants, bromeliads, philodendrons, palmeras and taller shrubs. But the focal points are the native ferns *dapo*, *pakpak lawin* and *pako*. They mingle with old favorite ferns introduced long ago by plant importers. There are different varieties of Boston ferns and rabbit's foot.

Aguilar says she is an advocate of organic gardening. "As you can see, my baby daughter Maya moves around barefoot, and she can touch the leaves with no danger of toxic pesticides," she points out.

Without her saying so, we surmised that pesticides would drive the fairies away. And as our imagination drifted away with her fairy musings, a magical thing happened. It rained on that hot sunny moment. As we stared at the raindrops falling into the swimming pool, haze from the steaming hot rooftop covered the view, creating a mystical scene that would have awed even jaded no-nonsense folks.

A VISITOR is first greeted by lichens, moss, and an imposing *macopa* tree whose trunk is home to ferns, an orchid, and a vine with curtain roots.



THE POOL is carved out of rocks and paved with river stones.

Marlene Aguilar says though she doesn't see the nature spirits, she feels them

Make your own fairy garden

FAIRIES supposedly live among natural things like trees, flowers, herbs and bushes.

VARIOUS sources offer tips on how to make a faerie (a combination of the words "fay" and "aerie" that means a place where fairies dwell) garden.

They include:

• Choose your site. Walk to the middle. Close your eyes. State loudly what your wishes are and ask the fairies for guidance.

• Bring life to your garden to attract fairies such as water pool, fountain, wind chimes, and little living creatures like frogs, lizards, butterflies.

• Gentle chimes create a light, airy vibration that draws fairies. They can be made of bamboo pipe, shells, metal pipes, ceramics.

• Water spirits and fairies are enticed by the sound of running water. You can create a pond, a small stream, spring stone or well.

• Fairies love to dwell among the flowers but any other plant that attracts bees, butterflies and birds will do. To bring them to your garden, place feeders, bird baths and nesting boxes or birdhouses.

• Garden accessories may include unobtrusive figurines of fairies, toadstools, frogs and other statues placed around the garden in quiet, untrodden areas.

• Any place where nature flourishes, where pesticides are not used, is safe to life, so fairies will reside.

• Fairies love places where there are basil and water plants with leaf pads.

• A private corner of the garden can be made into a fairies' nook with a bench for their use. Once in a while, offer them a treat. They love treats and will reward you by granting your wish.

All you need to make a faerie garden is a place, a few tools, flowers and plants, plus your imagination and help from unseen creatures known as divas and nature spirits.

So don't keep the fairies waiting. Start now.

Tita Giron

The Grand Fiesta of Smiles

Masskara 2004

Bacolod is the "City of Smiles". Each year, the locals celebrate life with a fiesta like no other in the Philippines. Right before the City's charter day anniversary on October 19, a weeklong celebration is held to highlight the main attractions of the festival. To culminate the affair a grand and popular street party takes place. This year, join SMART Buddy as it tours the City of Smiles for another FIESTAmazing happening.

From the 11th of October to the 18th there were parades, pageants, fairs, contests, and shows held across town for all to partake in. SMART Buddy was there for the opening of the Magika Masskara held at the Heritage Building. Then, Ginoong Bacolod Masskara 2004 and Little Miss Mutya were crowned at the Bay Center, where the Senior Citizen Cultural Contest was held together with the Farmers and Fishermen Activity. As you can see, this was a fiesta for everyone! In the morning of October 12 the Outbreak Challenge began at Paglaum Sport. For those interested in other attractions, a string of activities followed beginning with a Job Fair, a Body Building Competition, and a number of Dance Parades. And as if that was not enough, on the night of the 15th the Masskara Queen & King were chosen.

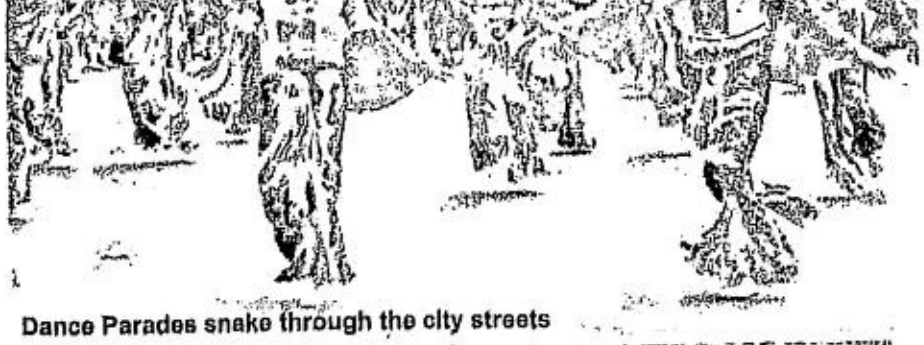
To make the event even more FIESTAmazing, Smart Buddy presented "Bamboo Live in Bacolod". This free concert, open to all SMART subscribers, welcomed close to two thousand guests at the North Bar parking lot. SIM Swap activities on the night of the concert get specially made SMART Buddy Party Hats for the Masskara Festival happening or a copy of Bamboo's "As The Music Plays" CD. Aside from this night of singing and dancing, SMART Buddy also tied up with various bars downtown to provide continuing entertainment for all. Hotspots like Café Bob's were giving out freebies like free coffee to the first 50 SMART subscribers of the night. And for those who missed out on the Bamboo concert, they could still get those cool SMART Buddy party hats at the SMART booth located at the Bacolod Plaza Area. All they have to do is SIM swap to the SMART Buddy Super SIM 3.

As more activities happened in between, from the first of October to the 18th, it all led to the main showcase of the Masskara Festival, the Mardigras Street Party. Starting at 8pm the streets of Bacolod were filled with fiesta-goers ready to have fun amidst all the smiling faces of the colorful maskaras. In blue, red, orange, green, and yellow, wide grins and happy expressions were painted. The merry-making lasted the whole night through until it was time for the 66-second countdown to Charter Day. It was another successful Masskara Festival made even more FIESTAmazing with SMART Buddy!

Now you know how the Ilonggos in Bacolod celebrate life, with a strong will, a warm heart, and a joyful smile! Where will SMART Buddy FIESTAmazing be next? Stay with SMART Buddy as it continues to provide you only with the NationWidest coverage and you'll soon find out!

Buddy

FIESTAmazing!



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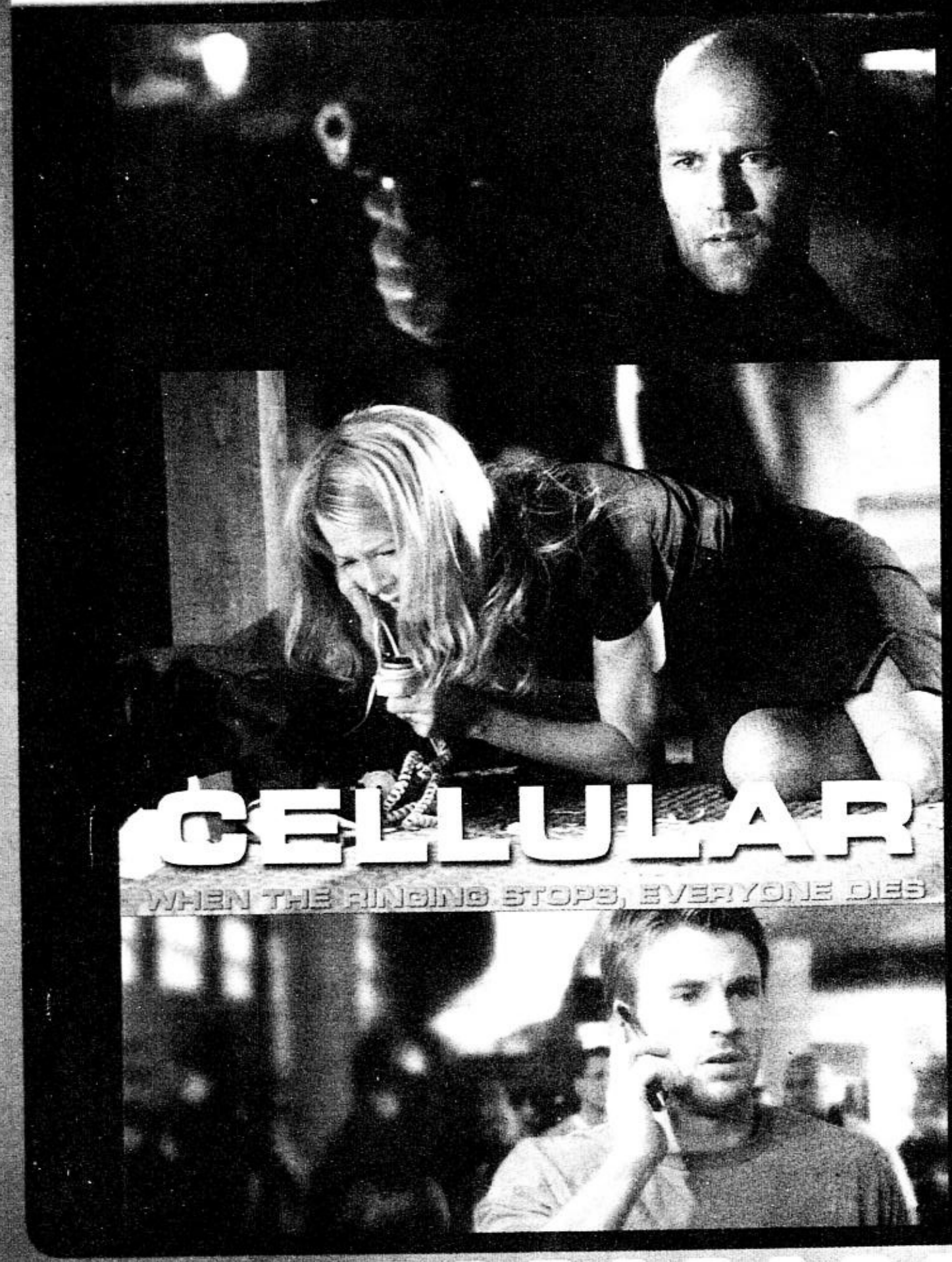

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Ringtones

Song Title	Artist
Me, Myself and I	*Beyonce*
Gangster Tripping	*Fatboy Slim*
Don't Call Me Baby	*Madison Avenue*
Never Ever	*All Saints*
You Don't Know My Name	*Alicia Keys*
Make Me Bad	*Korn*
Daylight	*Coldplay*
Going Under	*Evanescence*
Take Me Out	*Franz Ferdinand*
Stole	*Kelly Rowland*
Times Like These	*Foo Fighters*
Show Me How To Live	*Audioslave*
New Deep	*John Mayer*
Sweetest Sin	*Jessica Simpson*
Powerless	*Nelly Furtado*

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Times Like These	*Foo Fighters*
Show Me How To Live	*Audioslave*
New Deep	*John Mayer*
Sweetest Sin	*Jessica Simpson*
Powerless	*Nelly Furtado*

Mono keyword
TONE MEMYSELF
TONE GANGSTER
TONE CALLMEBABY
TONE NEVEREVER
TONE YOUDONT
TONE MAKEMEBAD
TONE DAYLIGHT
TONE GOINGU
TONE TAKEMEOUT
TONE STOLE
TONE TIMES
TONE SHOWHOW
TONE NEWDEEP
TONE SWEETSIN
TONE POWERLESS

Poly Keyword
POLY MEMYSELF
POLY GANGSTER
POLY CALLMEBABY
POLY NEVEREVER
POLY YOUDONT
POLY MAKEMEBAD
POLY DAYLIGHT
POLY GOINGU
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"SHOW It Off" recital dancers

Here's looking at you, Morocco

TESSA!

Tessa Prieto-Valdes

MOROCCO is on my list of most exotic, must-visit destinations. Nestled on the northwestern tip of Africa, it is separated from the rest of the continent by the towering Atlas Mountains and by the Sahara desert.

More than 20 years ago (ancient history in my lifetime), I spent one Christmas holiday in Morocco with my classmates from a Swiss finishing school. I don't remember much from that school, aside from proper napkin folding and endless table manners, but my trip to Morocco was memorable and awesome.

"Casablanca" became one of my favorite movies because of my vacation in the city. More unforgettable were the bustling markets and the French-speaking, arresting men with hairy, sculpted chests. With the Moroccan race having a tidy mixture of Euro-

HERE'S/ H2

'Casablanca' became one of my favorite movies because of my vacation in this country over 20 years ago

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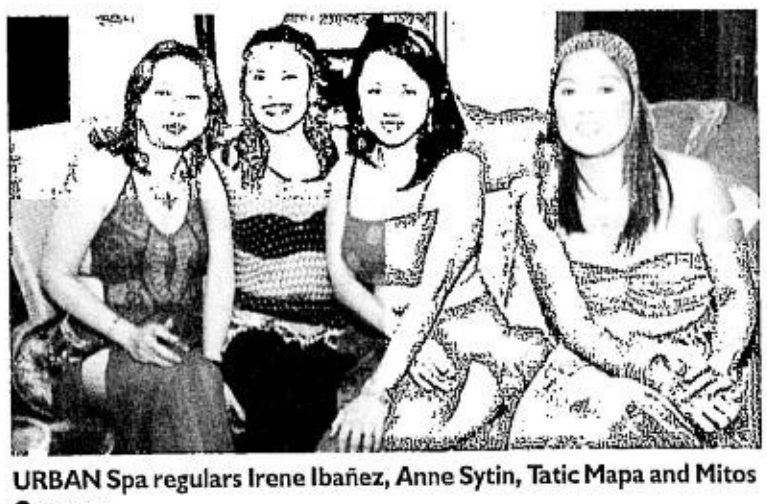
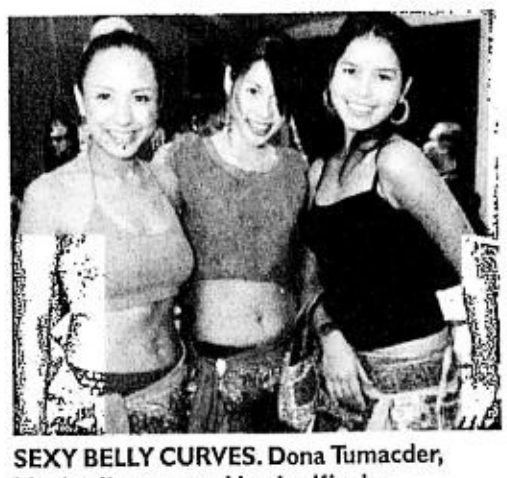


URBAN Spa regulars Irene Ibañez, Anne Sytin, Tatic Mapa and Mitos Ocampo

BELLY goddesses Marianne Zapanta, jeweler Sen Carmona and Ginajane Grey

MAKATI Garden Club girls Melinda Zenarosa, Baby Paterno, Ging de los Reyes, Albertine Santi, Marilou Laurena, Linda Angeles, Sea Princess; (seated) Linda Miranda, Ma. Luisa Perez-Rubio, Ching Caluag and Regina Paterno

BAG LADIES. Emily Siy, Jojo Ongsiako, Janet Tan and Kaye Tinga



SEXY BELLY CURVES. Dona Tumacder, Manina Jimenez and Jessica Kienle

PRETTY friends Alexi Alunan, Kat Yaptinchay and Monique Albert with tea giveaways

SUPPORTING the Festival of Trees are Joseph Assad of the consulate of Lebanon and Luli Delgado.

Here's looking at you, Morocco

From page H1

pean and Arabic invaders injecting their genes into the mix, one can only guess what other endowments these men must have!

So how does all that relate to the Manila social scene that I'm supposed to write about?

Fun tea party

For one, a "Moroccan Tea Party" was the theme for the launch of Twinings of London, an affair I hosted in my house. Twinings' extensive and comprehensive range of tea flavors was introduced to my guests through a taste-test game. The company, still family-owned and managed by real Gen-X, 10th-generation son **Stephen H. B. Twinings**, even has the British royal family's highly coveted seal of approval.

I've never been a coffee lover since I have a naturally caffeinated personality. Even a cup in the morning affects my insomniac schedule. Black teas and green teas also have high levels of caffeine, so my favorite Twinings is the fruit and herb infusion. Refreshing and invigorating, it is naturally caffeine-free and low in calories, a perfect combination for my infanticipating state right now.

Since I am restricted from belly dancing during my first trimester, my exotic teacher **Ginajane Grey** gave my friends a sample of what they will be expecting to see in our class recital called "Show It Off" presented by Vaseline (and sponsored by Globe Platinum, Dove, Nescafe Gold, Maidenform and MAC) at the RCBC Plaza Auditorium on Nov. 21.

With Ginajane's students all graceful and sexy, this is one show all the men should not miss! I have a cameo role, so I will have my whole extended family come to applaud *moi*—the big-bellied and flamboyant extra.

Completing the Marrakesh market scene at the tea party was a mini-bazaar for accessories shopping. We had Get Happy items by **Happy David**, custom-made stylish shoes by Solea, one-of-a-kind special bags by **Emily Siy** and pearl accents by **Sen Carmona**. What an excuse to make shopping more convenient for me! No more lines at the cash register!

Food has always been last on my priority list, but now that I am eating for two, I asked inventive caterer **Malu Gamboa** to come up with theme dishes like a Mezze platter and other variations from her Cirkulo menu. Dishes like Indian Samosas and Tandoori Paneer Tikka from Prince of Jaipur were a good addition to the mix, all to be washed down with Twinings teas.

The party ended with a couple of songs from my traveling buddy in Spain earlier this year, **Tinee Chan**, who sang so beautifully with acoustic guitarist **Ramon**. Tinee, who is the niece of balladeer **Jose Marie Chan**, has an operatic voice that brought the house down during the wedding of my cousin, **Margaret Carpo Salazar**, in Spain. Pinoy talent truly rocks!

All the guests got to bring home tea sets from Urban Spa and lots of fun memories. I also invited them to attend a similar fund-raising event, but on a bigger scale, on Nov. 18 at the Manila Polo Club. The Makati Garden Club and the Philippine Business for Social Progress will be hosting the 10th Festival of Trees and will carry on the Moroccan/Casablanca theme.

Festival of Trees

Awaiting those with exquisite tastes are bejeweled Festival Christmas trees, unusual artifacts and Moroccan art pieces to be auctioned off. Unique this year is a bazaar filled with jewelry, bags, Persian carpets and other distinctive items. I was part of the organizers' initial planning, so I have to say my influence must have rocked the conservative ideas of some of the Garden Club members, but which they actually welcomed.

After almost a decade of supporting environmental programs in the south and also responding to Mindanao's education crisis, the festival is such a wonderful event to support. Smart Infinity is the strategic partner and one of its most generous sponsors. I am just so grateful to PLDT CEO **Manny Pangilinan** for supporting so many charitable programs in our country, including my Assumption Batch '81 Foundation.

The nice thing about charity work is that it does not need to be all about cash. Sharing time via volunteerism is a great avenue to do one's share in community development. If you are clueless as to how to go about volunteer work, the Hands On Manila Foundation has a big event today at the NBC Tent from 8 a.m. onward.

Volunteer, volunteer!

Hands On is like a dating agency, matching individuals with foundations of their liking. You can hook up with as many foundations as you like! At the VIP (Volunteer In Person) day, there will be a Best Student Volunteers fashion show of donated designer T-shirts, a badminton clinic with Pinay Olympian **Weena Lim**, a live auction featuring bidding of volunteer hours—hosted by me, so please come, support and be blessed—and all this ending with a VIP concert by Rivermaya.

Going on right now but only until the end of the month is the PSID graduating class' Interior Design Exhibit called "Popcorn: PSID Goes to the Movies" on the fourth floor of Paseo Center. Yes, one of the inspirations is "Casablanca." It was amazing to see talented students come up with cutting-edge designs while working on really tight budgets.

The batch's president, **Joby Belmonte**, told me that even if times are really tough, they were still able to produce beautiful interiors, thanks to very generous sponsors.

With all the fund-raising and volunteerism going around, there is truly so much hope for our country. Sharing our blessings is a theme that warrants repetition any time. As that famous line from the movie goes, "Play it again, Sam."

E-mail me at seaprincess@inquirer.com.ph

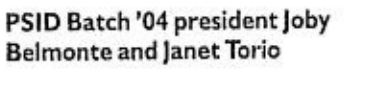
TEA LOVERS. Chesca Carpo, Tinee Chan, Kitty Jacinto, Malu Gamboa, Thea Jacinto, Marisa Chan and Ric Yupangco

PSID Batch '04 president Joby Belmonte and Janet Torio

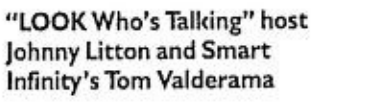
"LOOK Who's Talking" host Johnny Litton and Smart Infinity's Tom Valderama

TWININGS executives Cecillia Paderon and Ina Pineda

STYLISH friends Vicki Perez de Tagle and Rosan Cruz



GENEROUS artists Baby Paterno and Ching Caluag



MASTER muralist at the PSID exhibit, Alfred Galvez

"CASABLANCA"/"ALADDIN"-inspired interiors at the PSID exhibit

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

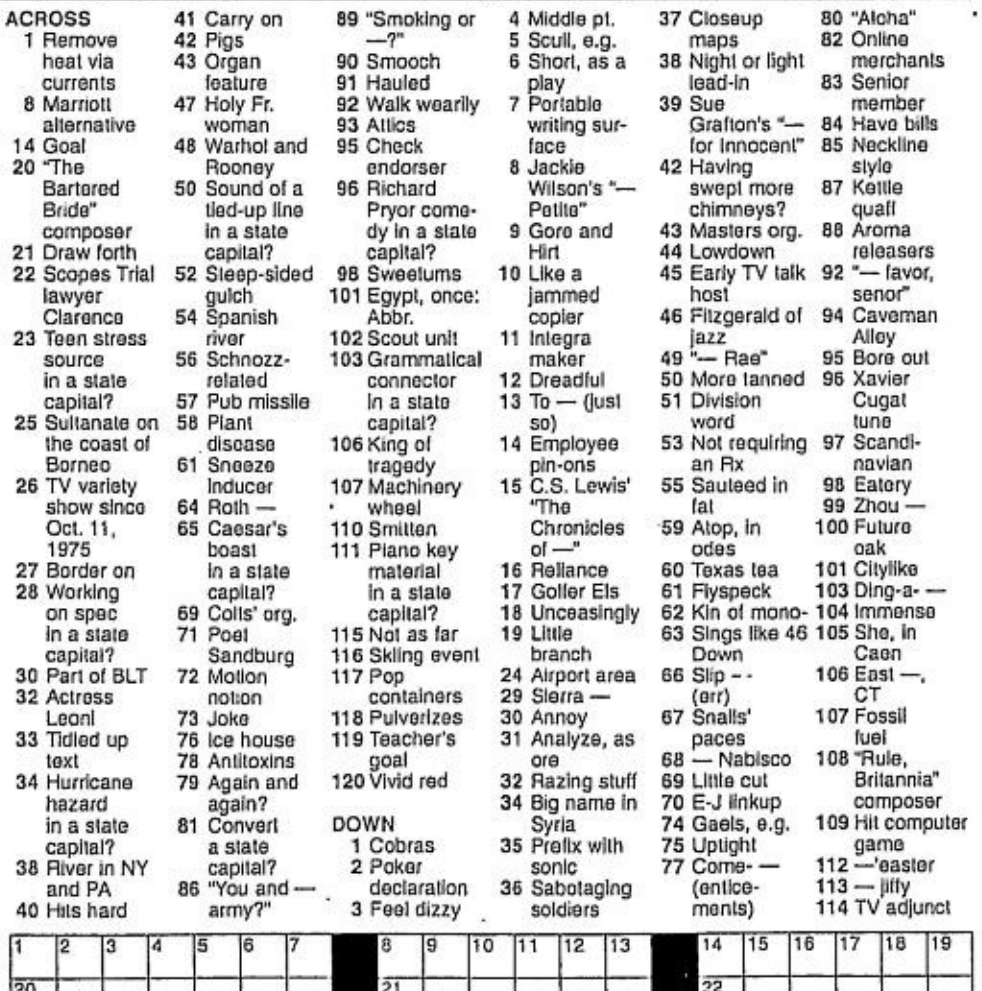
PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo — PUN-ISHMENT

ACROSS

1 Remove heat via currents
8 Marriott alternative
14 Goal
20 "The Bartered Bride" composer
21 Draw forth
22 Scopes Trial lawyer Clarence
23 Teen stress source in a state capital?
25 Sultanate on the coast of Borneo
26 TV variety show since Oct. 11, 1975
27 Border on
28 Working on spec in a state capital?
30 Part of BLT
32 Actress Leoni
33 Tidied up text
34 Hurricane hazard in a state capital?
38 River in NY and PA
40 Hits hard
41 Carry on
42 Pigs
43 Organ feature
47 Holy Fr. woman
48 Warhol and Rooney
50 Sound of a tied-up line in a state capital?
52 Sleep-sided gulch
54 Spanish river
56 Schnozz-related
57 Pub missile
58 Plant disease
61 Sneeze inducer
64 Roth —
65 Caesar's boast in a state capital?
69 Colls' org.
71 Poet Sandburg
72 Motion notion
73 Joke
76 Ice house
78 Antitoxins
79 Again and again?
81 Convert a state capital?
86 "You and — army?"
89 "Smoking or —?"
90 Smooch
91 Hauled
92 Walk wearily
93 Attics
95 Check endorser
96 Richard Pryor comedy in a state capital?
98 Sweetums
101 Egypt, once: Abbr.
102 Scout unit
103 Grammatical connector in a state capital?
106 King of tragedy
107 Machinery wheel
110 Smitten
111 Piano key material in a state capital?
115 Not as far
116 Skiing event
117 Pop containers
118 Pulverizes
119 Teacher's goal
120 Vivid red

DOWN

1 Cobras
2 Poker declaration
3 Feel dizzy
4 Middle pt.
5 Scull, e.g.
6 Short, as a play
7 Portable writing surface
8 Jackie Wilson's "— Petite"
9 Gore and Hirt
10 Like a jammed copier
11 Integra maker
12 Dreadful
13 To — (just so)
14 Employee pin-ons
15 C.S. Lewis' "The Chronicles of —"
16 Reliance
17 Golfer Els
18 Unceasingly
19 Little branch
24 Airport area
29 Sierra —
30 Annoy
31 Analyze, as ore
32 Razing stuff
34 Big name in Syria
35 Prefix with sonic
36 Sabotaging soldiers
37 Closeup maps
38 Night or light lead-in
39 Sue Grafton's "— for Innocent"
42 Having swept more chimneys?
43 Masters org.
44 Lowdown
45 Early TV talk host
46 Fitzgerald of jazz
49 "— Rae"
50 More tanned
51 Division word
53 Not requiring an Rx
55 Sauteed in fat
59 Atop, in odes
60 Texas tea
61 Flyspeck
62 Kin of mono-
63 Sings like 46 Down
66 Slip - - (err)
67 Snails' paces
68 — Nabisco
69 Little cut
70 E-J linkup
74 Gaels, e.g.
75 Uptight
77 Come- — (entice-ments)
80 "Aloha"
82 Online merchants
83 Senior member
84 Have bills
85 Neckline style
87 Kettle quaff
88 Aroma releasers
92 "— favor, senor"
94 Caveman Alley
95 Bore out
96 Xavier Cugat tune
97 Scandinavian
98 Eatery
99 Zhou —
100 Future oak
101 Citylike
103 Ding-a- —
104 Immense
105 She, in Caen
106 East —, CT
107 Fossil fuel
108 "Rule, Britannia" composer
109 Hit computer game
112 —'easter
113 — jiffy
114 TV adjunct



answer on page F3

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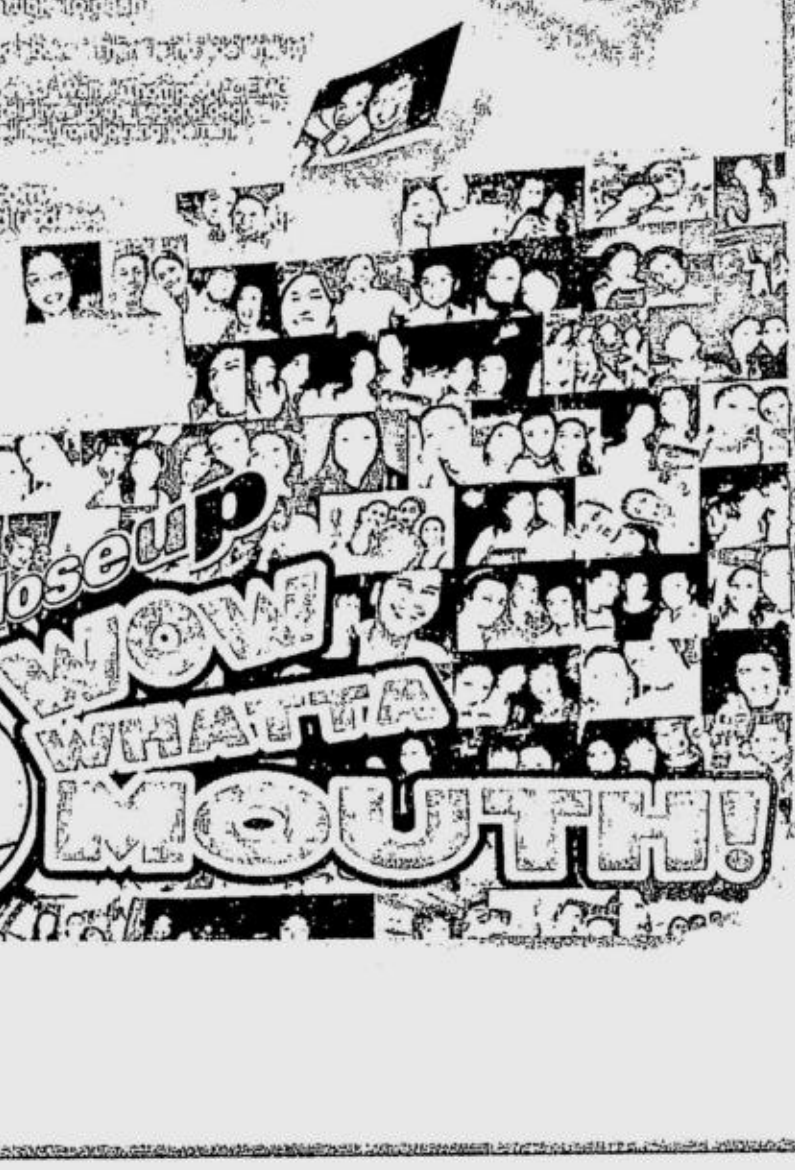

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Hooray for Beyoncé's Pinay makeup artist!

BEYONCÉ: True Star—Part 2. Last week, I wrote about my exclusive interview with True Star **Beyoncé** and designer **Tommy Hilfiger** in New York. I left off with Tommy Hilfiger telling me he wanted to speak privately with me.

Nope, he did not ask me to be his next image model or to work for him. Turns out he's been wanting to speak to a Filipino journalist for a long time regarding a racist slur he allegedly made. A couple of years back, there was rumor that Hilfiger said he didn't want Filipinos wearing his clothes. When I asked him whether it was true, he answered, "Of course not!"

He continued, "The grapevine picked up the rumor from an episode in Oprah's TV show. While I know Oprah personally, I have never been a guest on her show. In fact, my son is seeing a Filipina (last name is Young), and I believe they want to get married!" Well, that's straight from the horse's mouth.

When we finished our conversation, he introduced me to **Mally Roncal**, Beyoncé's makeup artist who happens to be Filipina. Beyoncé, she said, despite her superstardom, is so nice, down-to-earth and so easy to work with.

Mally has received a lot of accolades in the US and is the spokesperson for Sephora, Q-tips and Acuvue. She is set to launch her own makeup line next year.

Must-have coffee-table book—Tom Ford. So what does one of the world's top designers do after leaving the house that he helped build into a billion-dollar company? Why, write a book, of course.

Although it's not a tell-all tome, it's much better. This coffee-table book has 416 pages, a foreword by **Anna Wintour** (Vogue editor), introduction by **Graydon Carter** (Vanity Fair editor) and an interview by **Bridget Foley** (W editor), with over 300 images (some unpublished) from mega lensmen **Terry Richardson, Mario Testino, Steven Meisel** and **Richard Avedon.**

The book also chronicles Ford's work for both Gucci and YSL, as well as his creative ideas on architecture, store design and advertising. The book retails at $125 and will be out in the US on Nov. 1. This promises to be one of the most coveted items by all stylish men and women all over the world. Can't wait to get my hands on one! Anyone going to New York?

The sexiest new muscle below the belt. In the latest Details magazine (October 2004 issue), an article titled "The New Love Muscle" caught my attention. It's about a part of a guy's anatomy that's fast replacing washboard abs as an object of obsession. If you need some visuals of men who might have it, think **Brad Pitt, David Beckham** and Michaelangelo's David. It's located below the belly button and looks like an inverted pyramid, but it is actually the part where the leg attaches to the hip.

Now that I have dropped at least 10 pounds and go to the gym regularly, I have one like it, too. It's always a welcome sight whenever I wake up. But by the time I am ready for bed and my stomach's full, it's gone. Darn, shouldn't have eaten that tiramisu!

"Devil's horns," groin dips—the names aren't fixed yet for this love muscle.

T'NT TRENDS & TRENDINGS

Anton San Diego

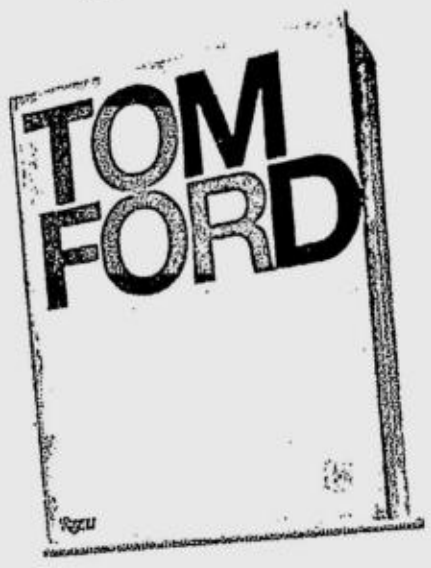
But go ahead and work on it!

V magazine sold at Mag:net, Greyhound, Celio, Firma, Homme et Femme, Mix and Paul Smith. One of my favorite magazines in the world, V magazine, is now available locally at a cover price of P475, which is a steal since it's sold in the US for $8.95. The mag's fifth anniversary issue has **Gwen Stefani** on the cover. Its creative team, headed by Filipino **Stephen Gan**, is coming to Manila in December. V Magazine is exclusively distributed in all Mag:net outlets.

Ask and you shall receive. About a month

HOORAY/I2

Mally Roncal has received a lot of accolades in the US and is the spokesperson for Sephora, Q-tips and Acuvue



MUST HAVE coffee-table book—Designer Tom Ford's latest opus

PROUDLY PINOY. Makeup artist/stylist to Beyoncé, Mally Roncal

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GIL Genio, CEO of Innove; Cesar Buenaventura, trustee, Makati Business Club; Delfin Gonzales, Globe chief financial officer; Lizanne Uychaco, artist; Chinky Alcedo, head, Globe Wireless Business Group; and Manny Aligada, head, Customer Service Group

OLIVIA Yao of Security Bank; Ma. Cecilia T. Cruzabra, VP, Globe Treasury Division; Princess Banal and Jennifer Villanueva, Globe Cash Monitoring; and Maria Veronica C. So, head, Globe Treasury Division

Mobile wallet for an array of transactions

GERRY Ablaza, CEO, Globe Telecom

JAIME Augusto Zobel de Ayala

GREG Romero, head of Globe ISG Program Management Office; Jones Campos, head of Globe public relations; and Gregg Marshall, managing director for Asia of Valista

JOJO Gonzales of Philippine Equity Partners

WALTER Wassmer, EVP, Equitable PCI Bank

EDUARDO Miranda of Paysetter Inc.

WIRELESS telecommunications giant Globe Telecom recently unveiled G-Cash, a breakthrough in mobile commerce. G-Cash transforms mobile phones of Globe Handyphone and Touch Mobile subscribers into mobile wallets that can be used in an array of transactions.

Using G-Cash, subscribers can make purchases or payments in accredited establishments such as ABS-CBN Interactive, Burger King, e-2-door.com, e-store exchange, Max's, Mercury Drug, Metro Gaisano, National Book Store, RemitCard, SuperFerry and sureseats.com.

Subscribers can send and receive G-Cash person to person (P2P). This new service also allows subscribers and non-subscribers to send domestic and international remittances to Globe and Touch Mobile subscribers in the Philippines. Recipients can in turn transact using this mobile wallet or exchange stored value for cash in designated outlets. G-Cash enhances consumer lifestyles by adding yet another dimension to P2P connectivity: Person to Person, Pamilya to Pamilya, Payment to Person.

G-Cash mobile wallet is safe. It is PIN-protected, with the PIN known only to the user, and with the user able to change it anytime. Transactions are supported by text advisories to both the sender and recipient with unique trace numbers.

G-Cash is easy to use. After registration, a subscriber can load G-Cash in his mobile wallet at any authorized outlet and thereafter use G-Cash to purchase goods and services or to transfer stored value to another subscriber.

The G-Cash mobile wallet can store a minimum of P1 to a maximum of P10,000. Maximum transactions per day is P40,000. Subscribers will be charged the usual text messaging fee of P1 per message for G-Cash transactions. G-Gash transactions at certain authorized outlets may be subject to processing fees. Globe Business Centers and Globelines Payment and Service Centers charge a service fee of 1 percent of the total transaction, with a minimum fee of P10 for cash-in or cash-out transactions.

G-Cash is a result of the synergy and collaboration between Globe and its trade and merchant partners. The company, with its pervasive network and broad subscriber base, has leveraged on the credibility of key business establishments. G-Cash is fully supported by established partner banks that include Bank of the Philippine Islands, Citibank, Equitable PCI Bank, Philippine National Bank, Security Bank Corp. and Wealth Bank. It has partnered with reputable and well-established companies such as CGNCOM S.r.l, ExpressPadala Far East Express Remittance Ltd., Gen-Ex Cargo, GlobeTel USA, LBC, iRemit Global Remittance, M.T.O. Tambunting, Pera Padala Cebuana Lhuillier, Prime Asia Pawnshop, 7 Eleven through EC Pay, Globelines Payments Centers and Globe Telecom Business Centers.

GARY Valenciano

G-Cash expands business opportunities for merchants, trade partners and the Filipino entrepreneur. It also accelerates the evolution of mobile commerce, giving consumers a convenient, easy-to-use mobile payment option.

"This is a milestone in our country's m-commerce universe and a major achievement for the company. We rank it 'up there' with Globe's introduction of SMS in the Philippines, as we believe it will have the same far-reaching, life-changing effect on all of us," said Globe president and CEO Gerardo C. Ablaza Jr. He further explained that G-Cash helps expand the business reach of its merchant partners. "It facilitates business transactions via mobile phone, thereby eliminating limits of time, as value is transferred at the speed of text. It transcends boundaries of space, as the service crosses domestic and international borders. And it is available to everyone in the Philippines, as long as one is a Globe Handyphone or Touch Mobile subscriber. It also creates a new revenue potential for merchants with mobile payment options, creating new selling opportunities," he added.

Ablaza concluded, "We are thrilled at the opportunities that mobile commerce presents to further expand our network of valued business partners. In fact, our food outlet partners have informed us that this product will revolutionize delivery service options. Concern over prank orders will soon be a thing of the past, as G-Cash allows prepayment before a delivery is made."

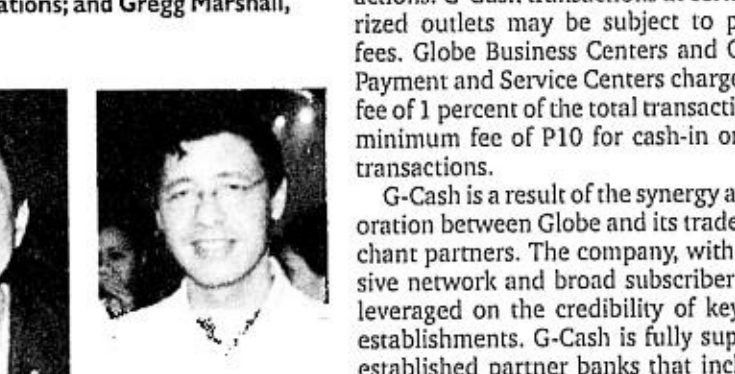
RICHARD Matotek of Utiba and Greg Romero of Globe Information Systems Group

Hooray for Beyoncé's Pinay makeup artist!

From page 11

ago, I wrote about this fantastic singer, **Joshua Payne**. Back then, his CDs were not being sold here. Well, I have good news for those looking for an exciting new voice to rival **Josh Groban's** or **Mario Frangoulis'** pipes. The CDs are now in local record stores, and Payne is even coming here to promote his CD in November or early December. How's that for a double whammy?

Royalty comes to Manila. There is only one hot ticket in town next week, and that is the **Princess Caroline** of Monaco charity dinner on Oct. 25 at the Makati Shangri-La. TNT hears that the tickets are selling faster than **Princess Stephanie** (Caroline's younger sister) can change husbands, and this despite the rather stiff prices. Maybe it's because of the social cache of meeting one of the most beautiful, fashionable and popular royals in the world. And, of course, the worthiness of the fund-raising event itself.



A ROYAL VISIT. Princess Caroline of Monaco and her husband, Prince Ernst of Hanover

The organizing committee is headed by no less than the grand dames of Manila society: **Imelda Cojuangco, Chito Madrigal Collantes, Mary Prieto** and **Bea Zobel.**

The Princess will be accompanied by her husband, **Prince Ernst** of Hanover, and during the event will be treated to a fashion show by **Inno Sotto** and musical numbers by the Virlanie children's choir. Major sponsor of the evening is no less than the Princess' favorite designer, Chanel.

Call 0920-9607265 or 8962289 for more details.

The new enemy is a five-letter word. Well, actually it has 13 letters. It's not a new terrorist group or another corrupt politician or military official being exposed. Its name is carbohydrates—carbs for short. Never in the history of, well, dieting, have carbs been so maligned and thought of as evil. The popularity of both the Atkins and South Beach diets has taken the demonizing to unprecedented proportions.

In the US, sales of orange juice, sodas or carb-rich foods have dipped so much that manufacturers have created alternatives to this growing market of "carb haters." Now, they're not just sugar- or fat-free, but also carb-free. And guess what? Eating a cookie processed in this manner tastes as good as the cardboard box it came in!

Personally, I cannot forsake my rice and pasta and, as in everything, I am sure this fad will have its saturation point. Just like fashion—today there is a demand for everything vintage. So in a couple of years, expect a craving for "vintage carbs."

The key to being healthy is moderation in everything. If a diet works for you, then go for it. But without regular exercise, you'll gain everything back somehow.

E-mail the author at antonsd@philtatler.com

DOLCE GABBANA

DO YOU HAVE IT? The new love muscle, supposedly the sexiest part of a man's body

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- Bumili ng tatlong (3) Tang Litro Packs (any flavor)
- Isulat sa isang papel ang mga sumusunod:
  - Ang inyong Christmas wish worth Php 30,000.00
  - Pangalan, Address, Telephone number at Lagda
- Ilagay sa isang sobre ang mga Tang Litro Packs at ang papel na may kumpletong personal information. Isulat sa labas ng sobre ang promo title "Tang Paskong Pangarap 2 Raffle"
- Maaaring ipadala o i-drop ang inyong entries sa mga sumusunod:
  - Promo drop boxes sa mga selected supermarkets nationwide
  - Promo drop boxes sa GMA 7 TV and radio stations nationwide
  - Ipadala sa P.O. Box No. 3126
- Deadline for submission of entries is on December 7, 2004

What to Win / Prizes:

- 8 Weekly Raffle Draws sa 8:12 sa GMA 7 from Oct. 18 - Dec. 10, 2004

  1st Prize: Christmas wish worth Php 30,000.00 (1 winner per week)

  Minor Prize: Php 5,000.00 Cash (9 winners per week)

- Grand Raffle Draw sa 5:00 sa GMA 7 on December 12, 2004

  1st Prize: 3 winners of Php 300,000.00

  2nd Prize: 20 winners of Php 20,000.00

  3rd Prize: 50 winners of Php 5,000.00

Paano malalaman kung kayo ay nanalo?

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- Siguraduhing may identity cards, passport, SSS/GSIS ID or driver's license for identification and verification purposes. The winners shall also sign an acknowledgement document upon receipt of their prizes.
- The redemption of the raffle prizes shall be allowed within sixty (60) days from receipt of notice by registered mail.
- Any prize notification returned to KFPI as undeliverable, or any prize not claimed within sixty (60) days from notification shall cause the return of the prizes to KFPI.
- KFPI reserves the right to substitute a prize for equal value in place of advertised prizes that are unavailable. The 20% withholding tax for the cash prizes will be shouldered by Kraft Foods (Philippines) Inc. Acceptance of the prize constitutes permission to use the winner's name and/or likeness for advertising trade purposes without further notice or compensation, unless prohibited by law.
- By participating in this raffle promo, participants agree to be bound by the official rules and regulations and decisions of KFPI.
- In no event shall KFPI, its affiliates or subsidiaries be liable to the participants for any monetary amount greater than the value of the advertised prizes or their substitutes due to the prize winner under the rules and regulations of this raffle.
- KFPI, its affiliates and subsidiaries shall not be liable to the participants in contract, tort or negligence or otherwise for any loss, damage, costs or expense of any nature whatsoever incurred or suffered by the participant and which is of indirect or inconsequential nature, including, without limitation to any economic loss or other loss.
- Employees of Kraft Foods (Philippines) Inc., its affiliates, subsidiaries, advertising and promotion agencies and relatives up to 2nd degree of consanguinity are disqualified from joining the promo.

Promo period is from October 7, 2004 to December 7, 2004.
Per DOH-BFAD Permit No 1131 series 2004

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600	Free	Free	P 4,500	P 14,000	P 5,500	P 17,700	P 5,500	P 14,500	P 30,750	Free	Free	Free
1000	Free	Free	Free	P 8,000	Free	P 11,700	Free	P 8,500	P 25,000	Free	Free	Free
2000	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	P 2,000	Free	Free	P 15,200	Free	Free	Free
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BUCHAREST'S outdoor Village Museum, with houses from different regions of the country, is like seeing the whole of Romania in one place.

Bran Castle was actually the home of Vlad, not the blood-sucking count of legend

Rambling through Romania in search of Dracula

By Aina S.R. Cruz
Contributor

THE JOURNEY began on a cold morning last October from Budapest, Hungary. With five other participants in an international training exchange program—from Romania, Croatia, Japan, and Washington and Missouri, United States—I was off to Romania, an Eastern European country that did not seem to be very popular with tourists.

Although people kept saying there were a lot of gypsies from Romania and it was not a safe country, I was not discouraged. I was traveling with a Romanian friend so I was sure I would be in good hands.

We drove to Romania in a rented car. The drive within the country was very pleasant. Roads were lined with trees in breathtaking autumn colors. Every once in a while we would see dogs scampering about. We learned later Romania had many stray dogs because the former dictator, Nicholae Ceausescu, did not allow them inside the housing blocks he built.

Our first stop was Timisoara, a city on the western part of the country. The plaza was surrounded by very interesting old buildings, trees and an Orthodox Church that stood out because of its structure. Timisoara looked like a very old city.

Mysterious

• In Hunedoara, we saw the Huniazilora castle. We arrived after it closed for the day so we stood outside and took pictures by the drawbridge. The castle looked mysterious, lit up and it felt like Dracula was going to show up any minute.

We were greeted by so many screeching bats when we got to Sibiu. (Well, this is Transylvania, after all, Dracula's birthplace.) Though it was dark, we walked around the city center. The streets and plaza were quite interesting.

It took us almost 24 hours to get to Bucharest from Budapest, arriving at Romania's capital at 4:30 a.m. After resting, we explored the city starting with the House of People. The second largest building in the world after the Pentagon, it was built by Ceausescu in the '80s. The massive building had so many spacious conference rooms that looked like hotel ballrooms.

I found the interiors very elaborate but tasteful. There were large crystal chandeliers, intricate carvings on the wall and ceiling, and gigantic carpets. All the materials used in the House of People came from Romania, as required by the dictator. Ironically, Ceausescu died before the building was completed.

Unwelcome reminder

If I were Romanian, I would want to have my wedding reception in one of the ballrooms but, for the locals, the building was an unwelcome reminder of the past.

The outdoor Village Museum featured houses from different regions of the country. It was like seeing the whole of Romania in one place. City streets were filled with old-style cars that date back to the communist era. There were also many beggars and street hawkers.

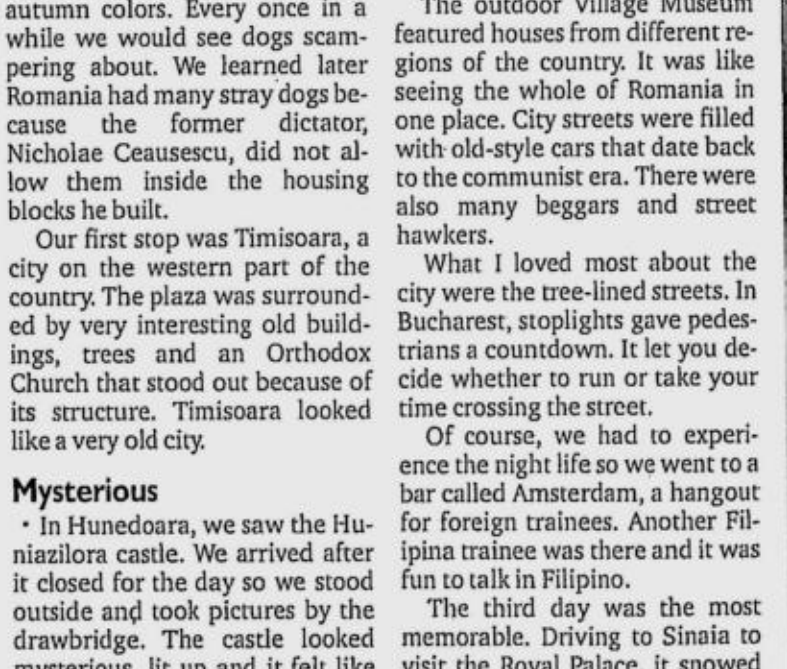
What I loved most about the city were the tree-lined streets. In Bucharest, stoplights gave pedestrians a countdown. It let you decide whether to run or take your time crossing the street.

Of course, we had to experience the night life so we went to a bar called Amsterdam, a hangout for foreign trainees. Another Filipina trainee was there and it was fun to talk in Filipino.

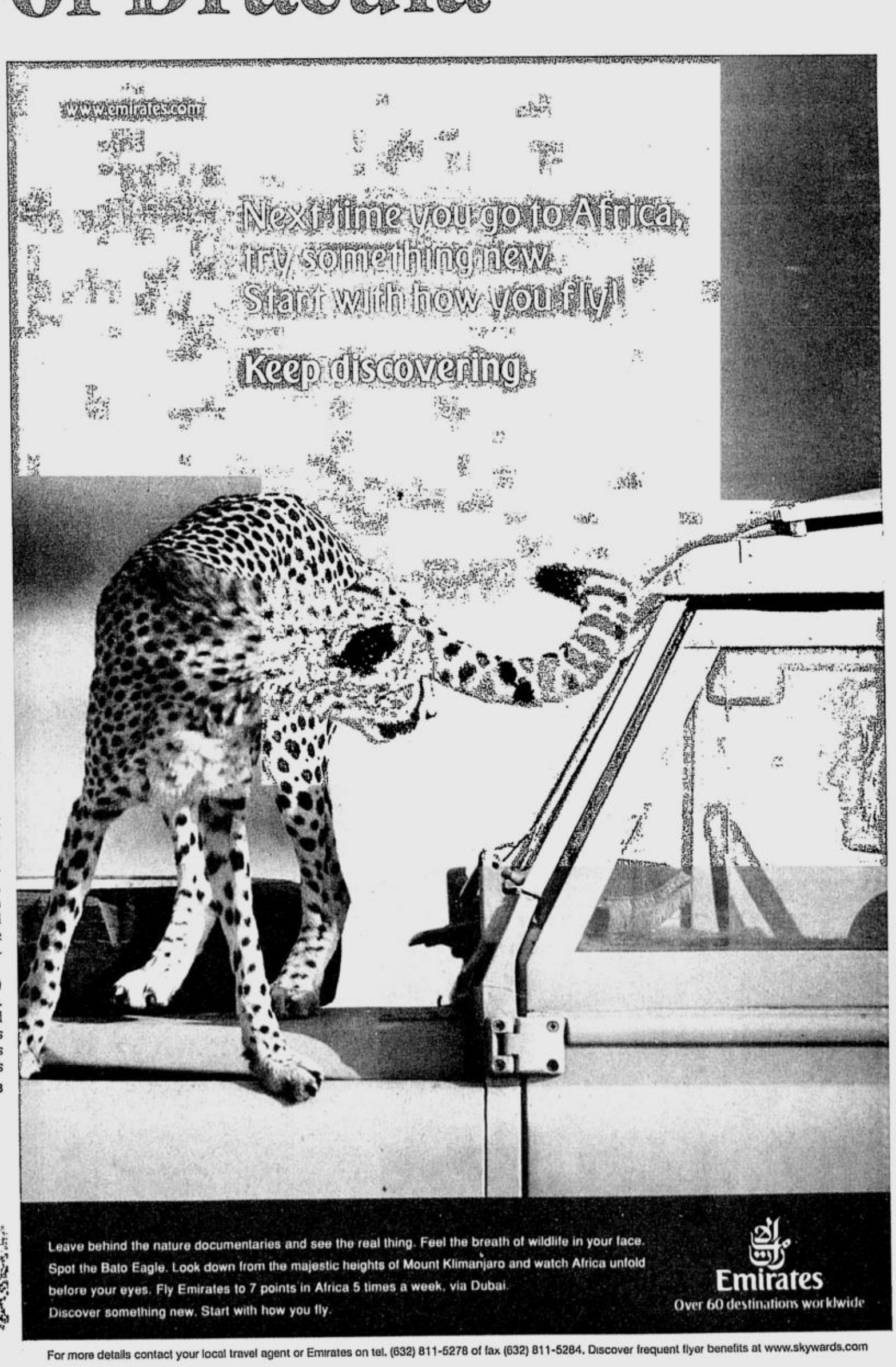
The third day was the most memorable. Driving to Sinaia to visit the Royal Palace, it snowed heavily. It was my first time to experience snow. It was so amazing, like cotton candy falling from heaven. The surroundings turned to white—the fields, the trees, the roofs, the cars and horse carriages—lifting my mood.

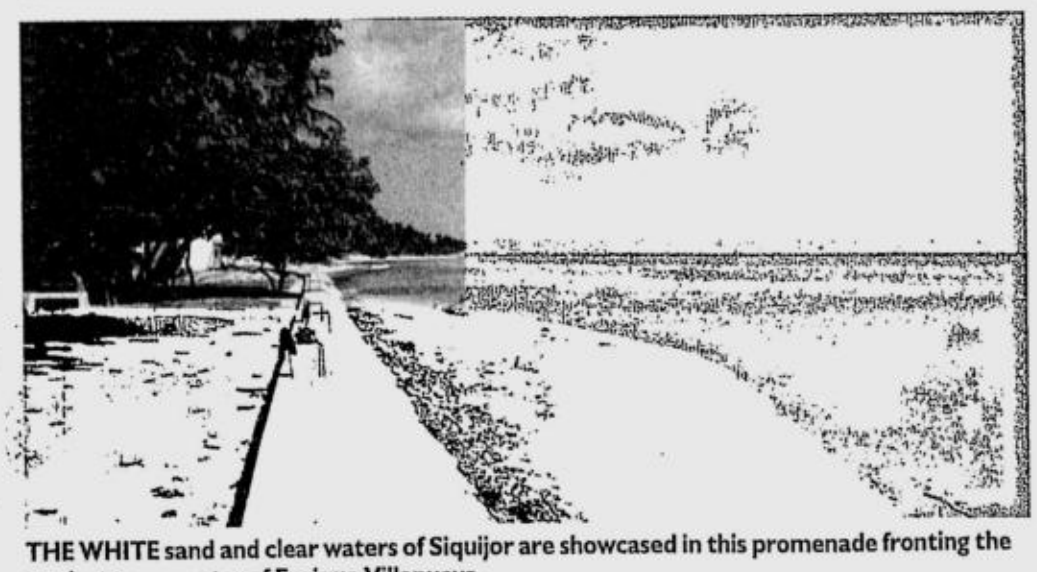
The Royal Palace (called Peles) was like a setting for a fairy tale. The castle and the courtyard were covered with snow as well. The Palace, with its impressive interiors, was

RAMBLING/ J3



A GUY named Vlad lived here, not Dracula.





THE WHITE sand and clear waters of Siquijor are showcased in this promenade fronting the modest town center of Enrique Villanueva.

VISITORS who make the trek down a steep slope are rewarded with the sight of the Cambugahay Falls in Tagmanokan, Lazi.

THE SAN Juan de Capilay Lake, a favorite swimming hole of San Juan residents, is fed by a natural spring.

WITH just a few public utility vehicles servicing Siquijor, this is a typical sight on its roads.

Who's afraid of Siquijor?

The Department of Tourism wants to make the enigmatic island province a major eco-tourism destination

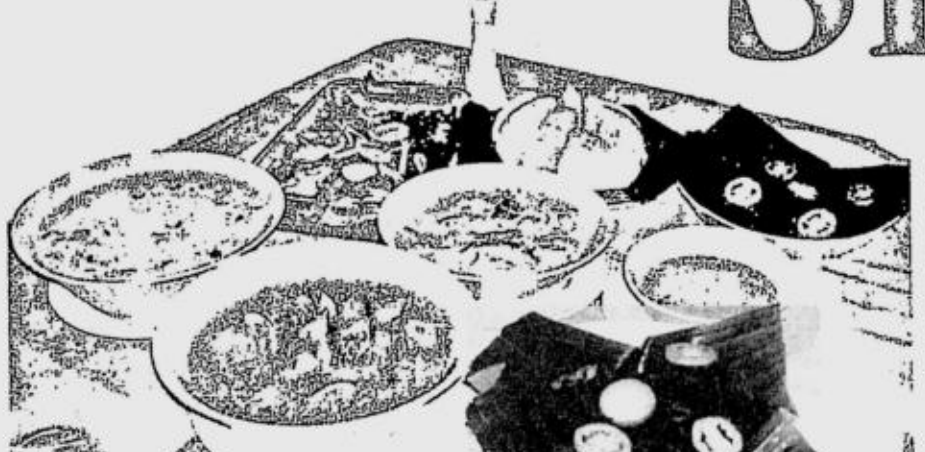
Text and photos by Linda B. Bolido

RIGHT smack on a well-trodden tourist path, in a manner of speaking, Siquijor should be a major travel destination. But most people, especially Filipinos—though eager to visit neighboring Negros, Bohol, Cebu or Boracay—give the island province a wide berth.

During the recent elections, even candidates for national offices did not add Siquijor to their itineraries, a situation that the locals took in stride as it was not the first time they were "overlooked."

The answer, of course, lies in Siquijor's reputation for being a place of sorcery, black magic, and generally strange people and rituals. Tales abound of travelers foolhardy enough to wander into the mysterious island and returning to their homes behaving not quite themselves and telling stories that seem to be taken straight out of legends and myths.

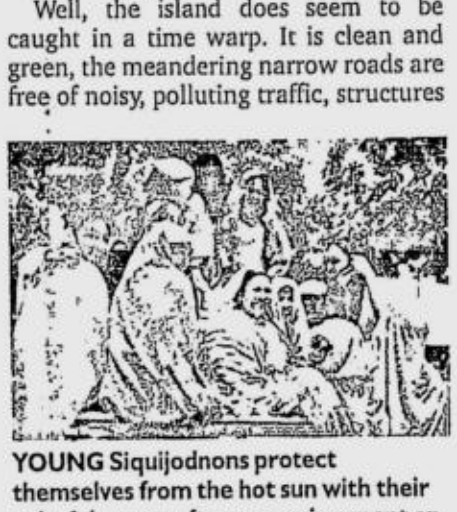
The intrepid visitor who dares to venture into the province is practically psyched to expect to land on a dark, eerie place with weird-looking people with strange ways.



MANY Siquijodnon dishes, consisting mainly of seafood, are cooked in coconut milk or served raw.

Time-warped

Well, the island does seem to be caught in a time warp. It is clean and green, the meandering narrow roads are free of noisy, polluting traffic, structures are no more than two stories high and the people are gentle, hospitable, hard-working and self-reliant. But in everything else, it is certainly not that different from many of the Philippines' more than 7,000 islands.



YOUNG Siquijodnons protect themselves from the hot sun with their colorful *sarong* after a morning spent on a beach.

Siquijor's modern-day reputation as a land of occult practices and rituals tends to obscure the fact that it is one of the earliest centers of the Catholic faith in the country. Its proximity to Bohol and Cebu, whose residents were among the first Filipinos to embrace the faith, made Siquijor a major target for conversion by the friars who came with the Spanish expeditionary forces.

The convent attached to the St. Isidore Parish church in Lazi is probably the biggest in the country. Completed in 1891, the convent—named a National Historical Landmark like the church—remains in use and also houses a small museum of antique religious images.

Very religious

Not surprisingly, Siquijodnons are very religious, whole families and communities carrying on with traditional practices like jointly dressing up their *santos* for Lenten processions, following the stations of the cross and generally spending a lot of time praying and meditating in churches during the Holy Week.

Resigned to being practically ignored by both the national government and the rest of the country, Siquijor has learned to rely primarily on its own initiative, yet does not look as poor as other island provinces. Among other things, the province has its own dairy production through the joint initiative of the Women's Organization Nurturing Development for Economic Recovery, Babaye Alang sa Reporma ug Gugma (Women for Reform and Love) and Timbaon Rural Improvement Club.

The town of Enrique Villanueva (formerly Talinting) has the Tulapos Marine Sanctuary and a thriving and well-maintained mangrove forest. Siquijor has actually been a marine reserve and tourist zone since 1978.

Overseas native sons and daughters keep a steady flow of remittances that has made many families comfortable, if not wealthy.

Eco-tourism destination

Of course, Siquijor can use some of the tourist incomes that Cebu, Bohol, Negros and Boracay get. With its relatively unspoiled tourist attractions, the Department of Tourism (DOT) is packaging it as a major eco-tourism destination. The cable television show "Survivor" has already shot an episode there, which DOT hopes will help convince people that Siquijor is not a place to be feared.

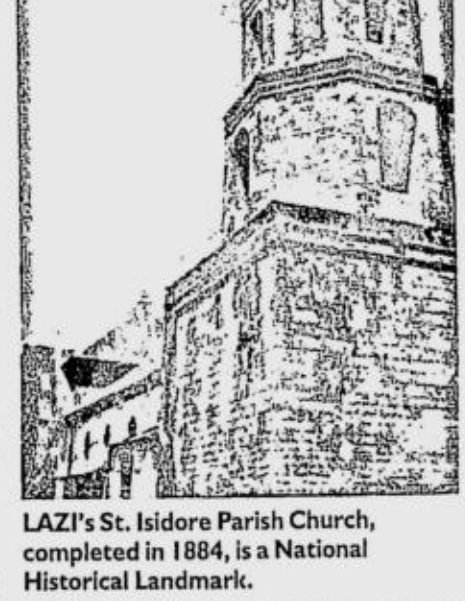
Considering, however, how being a favorite travel destination tends to ruin the very things that are supposed to draw visitors, one wishes that people will continue believing all those horror stories about Siquijor. It sends chills down the spine imagining what will happen when droves of tourists finally discover this jewel in Central Visayas.

The pier, currently empty except for disembarking and embarking passengers, would probably be teeming with hawkers, porters, possibly beggars and a few shady characters. What are now clear and clean waters and well-kept beaches would be littered with soda cans, plastic wrappers and other debris from people's fun activities.

High-rises would be built to provide accommodation to the hordes of visitors, and the narrow but uncluttered streets would be choked with tourist shuttle buses or jeepneys going every which way.

The images seem as—if not more—scary than all those tales of strange goings-on in the province.

Will Siquijor survive such an onslaught? Hopefully, the level-headed Siquijodnons will have learned their lessons well from neighboring tourist spots and work to preserve the things that make their province special.

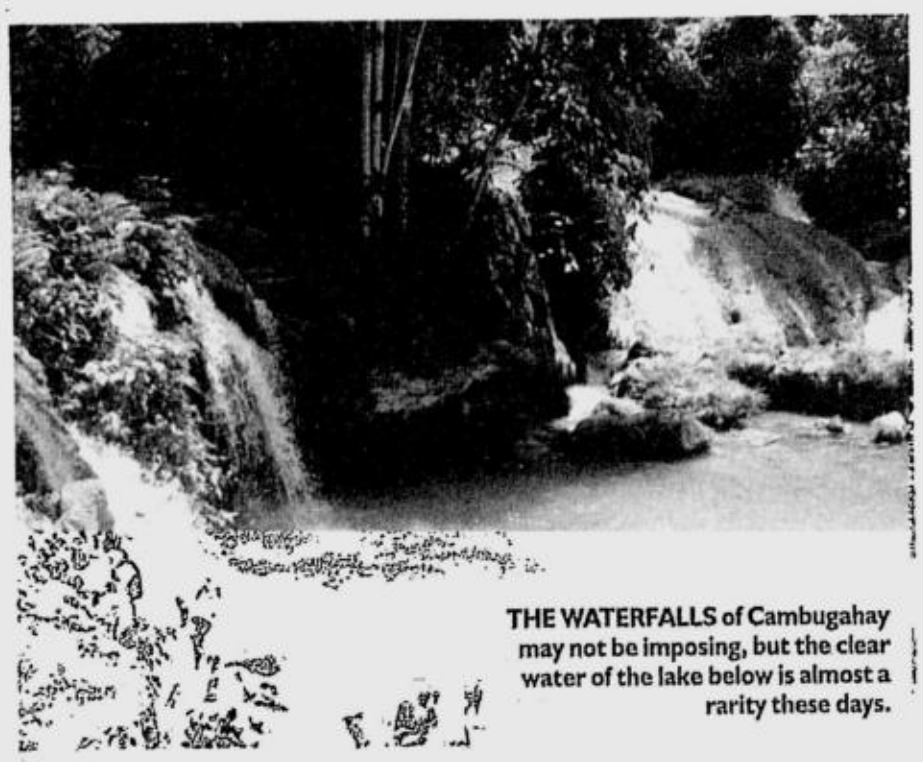


SIQUIJOR's colorful public utility vehicle—a cross between a jeepney and a mini-van

LAZI's St. Isidore Parish Church, completed in 1884, is a National Historical Landmark.

A HELPER of a local healer adds some mysterious ingredients to a brew believed to ward off evil spirits.

LOOKING like Rodin's "The Thinker," this pensive Christ was among the images included in a Good Friday procession.



THE WATERFALLS of Cambugahay may not be imposing, but the clear water of the lake below is almost a rarity these days.

Rambling through Romania in search of Dracula

From page J1

truly enchanting. Every room had a different theme—Turkish, Moroccan, Asian.

Living with the locals

One of the most interesting parts of the trip was sleeping in a typical Romanian village house in Zarnesti in the middle of nowhere. Being very interested in interior design, I found sleeping in a typical Romanian house very intriguing. It was so cozy and homey. We were served Romanian food. Sarmale was made of rolled minced meat and rice covered with cabbage. Ciorba was a sour clear soup with meat and vegetables. The very delicious dessert, Papanas, was fried dumplings with fruit jam inside. In the morning, the village looked amazing surrounded with snow-capped mountains.

On the last day, we started early for Bran, reputedly the site of Dracula's Castle. Sadly, the tour guide said Dracula didn't live there because there wasn't any Dracula. The castle was home to a guy named Vlad, whose nickname was Dracula.

So we drove to Brasov, my favorite city. It had a charming and friendly atmosphere and the architecture was interesting. Although beggars harassed us, it still had a lovely ambiance.

After a hearty meal we were off to the Postavarul Mountain in Poiana-Brasov on a cable car and saw the mountain covered with snow. A short walk was scary for me because the snow was slippery. At the top, however, the view was amazing—snow-capped mountains. The snow was so clean it seemed to be made of glistening crystals.

Later, we drove to Sigishoara, a medieval city, and saw Dracula's home that is now a restaurant.

We drove briefly around Cluj-Napoca where lamp posts, fences, benches and garbage cans were painted the colors of the Romanian flag. They have a very nationalistic mayor.

Having bought some tapes for souvenir, we returned to Budapest, which for some strange reason seemed to take longer, with Romanian music playing on the background.

Aina Cruz, a 2003 De La Salle graduate of marketing and psychology, has just completed the year-long international traineeship exchange program in Budapest, Hungary.

TravelBriefs

Thai Airways has new Manila GM

Thai Airways International Public Co. Ltd. announces the appointment of Dol Bhasavanich as new general manager for the Philippines.

Bhasavanich, 49, started as a 28-year-old junior marketing trainee in the airline in Bangkok. He has had postings in New Delhi, India and Phuket, Thailand. He was general manager in Dhaka, Bangladesh and Kathmandu, Nepal. Prior to his appointment to the Manila office, he was general manager in Kunming, China.

This is Bhasavanich's second time to be posted in the Philippines. He was assistant to the Manila area manager from 1985-1988. He is married to a Filipina, the former Wilhelmina "Mina" Cinco, with whom he was two sons.

Call Thai at 8124744 or visit www.thaiairways.com

A place for total wellness

BAGUIO'S Camp John Hay is not only a summer getaway, but also a place to seek total wellness of body, mind and spirit. The camp offers a number of activities to promote physical fitness like jogging or hiking, or visitors can simply sit back and enjoy the peace and quiet. Among others, Camp John Hay has the Eco-Trail, a 1.8-km footpath with several pathways, hanging and foot bridges. It leads to a pine forest with a stream, colorful flowers and stone formations. Guests can also go horseback riding or have a relaxing spa treatment at the Manor Hotel.

Visit www.campjohnhay.com or e-mail marketing@campjohnhay.com.

Shinto rites for new Tokyo hotel

TRADITIONAL Shinto groundbreaking ceremonies for The Peninsula Tokyo, scheduled to open in 2007, were held recently. The planned 315-key property in the Marunouchi district will be the eighth Peninsula hotel. The 24-story hotel will provide views of some of Tokyo's notable landmarks.

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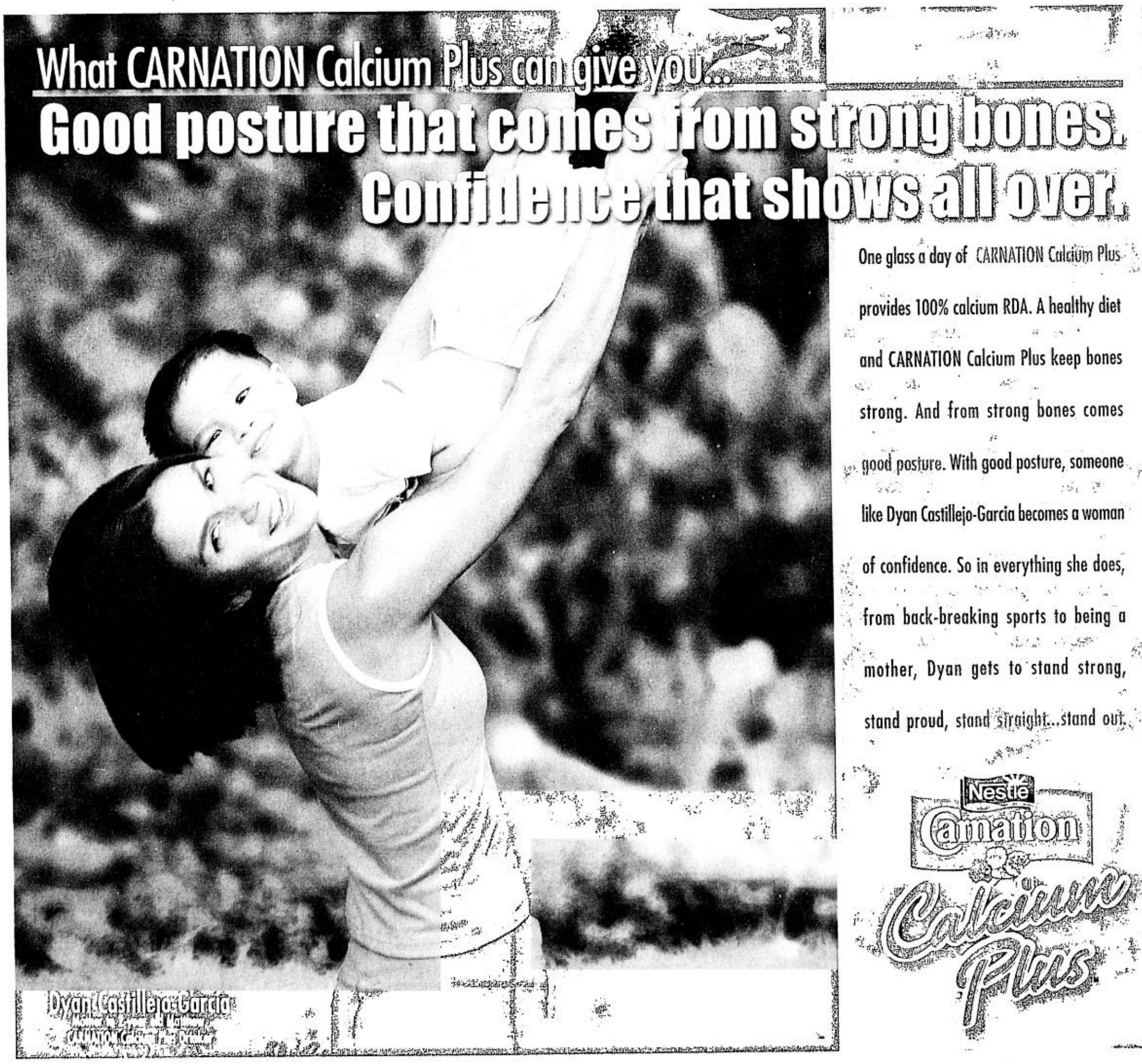

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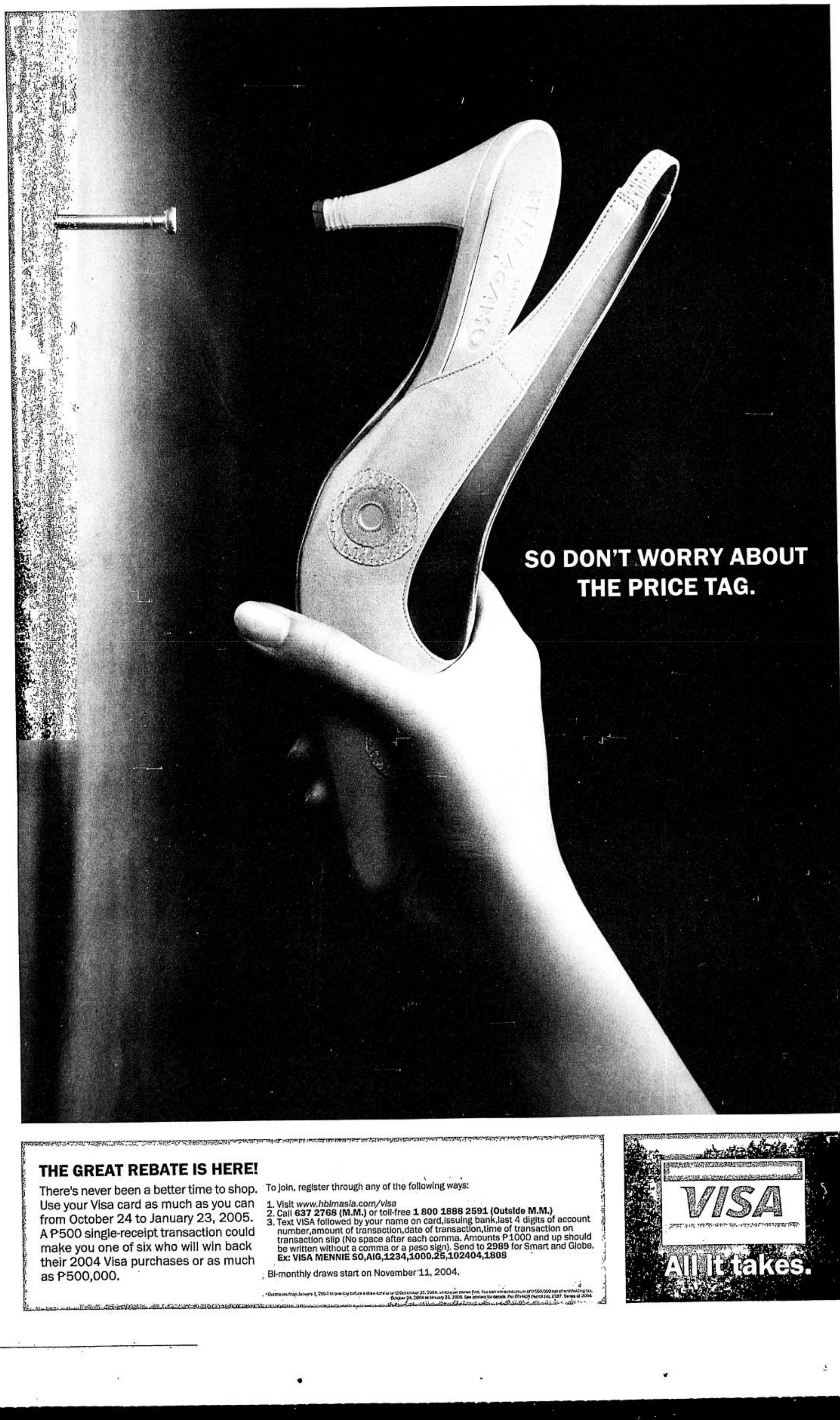

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Sunday LIFESTYLE

Here come the funnies!

THE INQUIRER launches Comics Sunday in the Lifestyle section today hopefully to, in the words of the editor in chief, "grab the Ragnarok generation while at the same time courting the continuing patronage of the Woodstock and Bridge generations."

POL MEDINA's "Pugad Baboy"

HUGO YONZON III revives "Darna."

HOW TO READ THE NEXT PAGES

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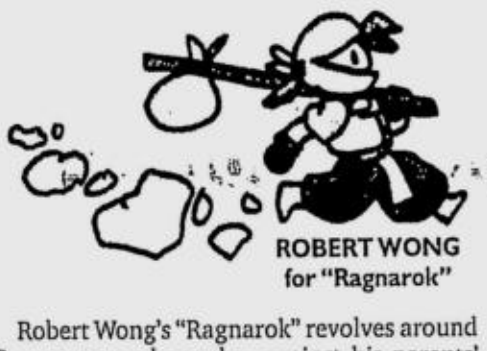

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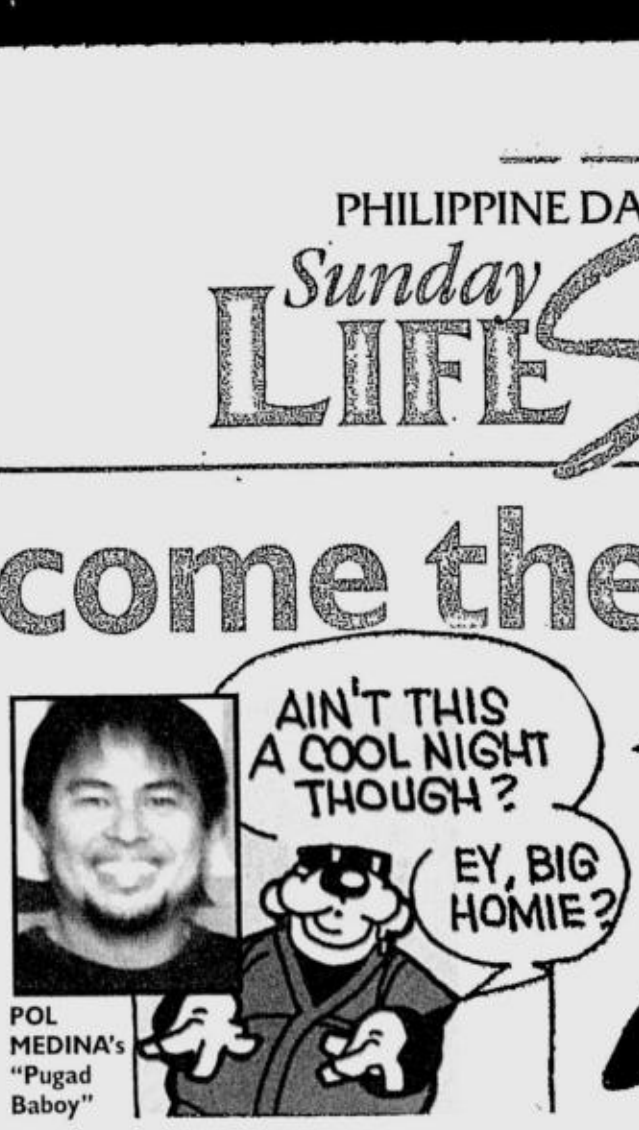

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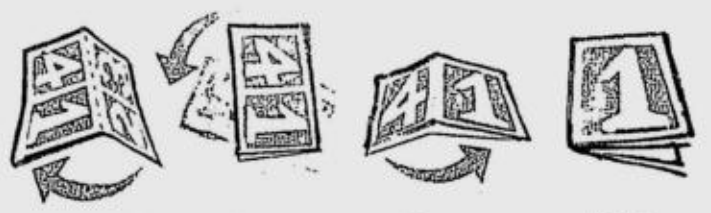

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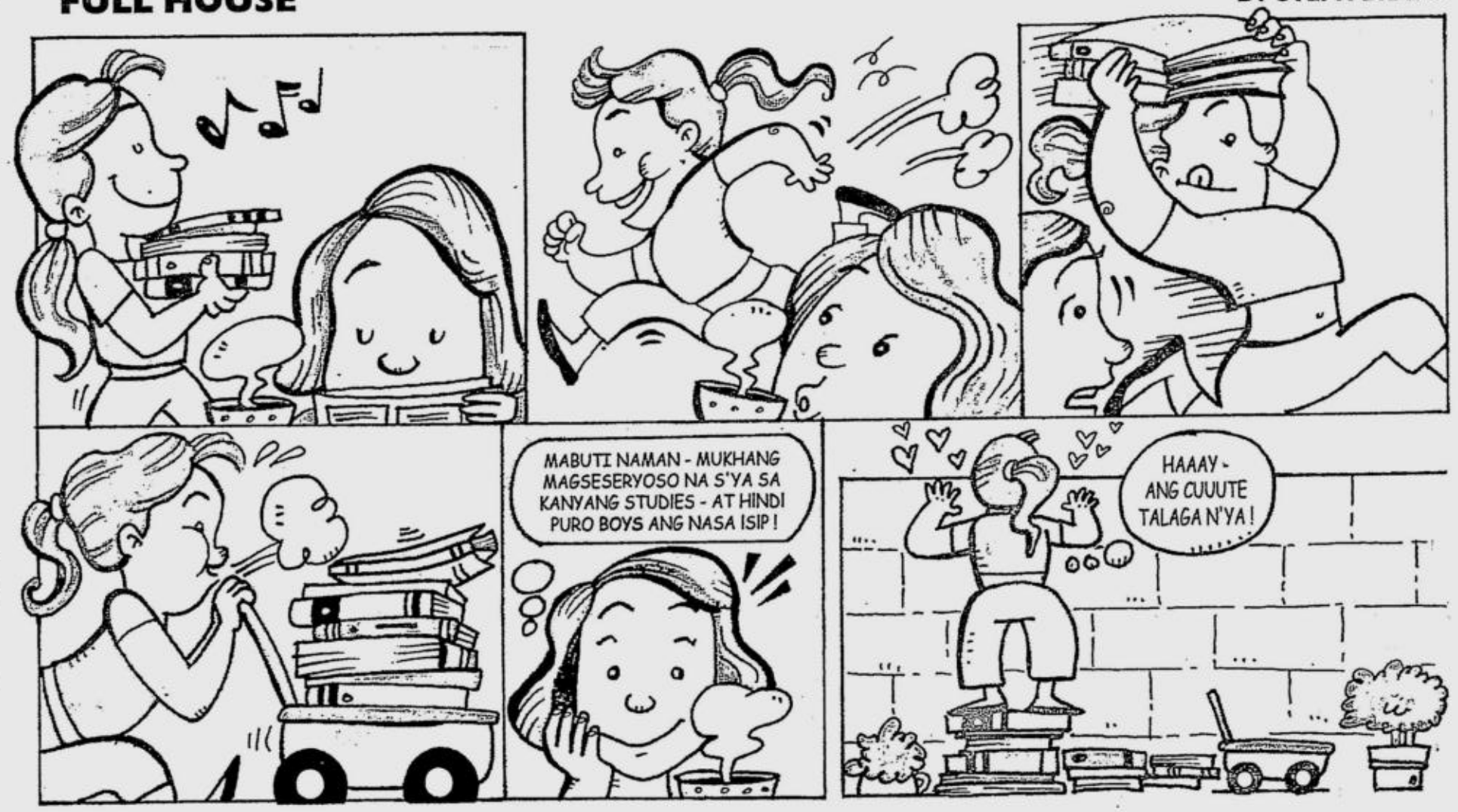
GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS

FULL HOUSE

BY STEPH BRAVO



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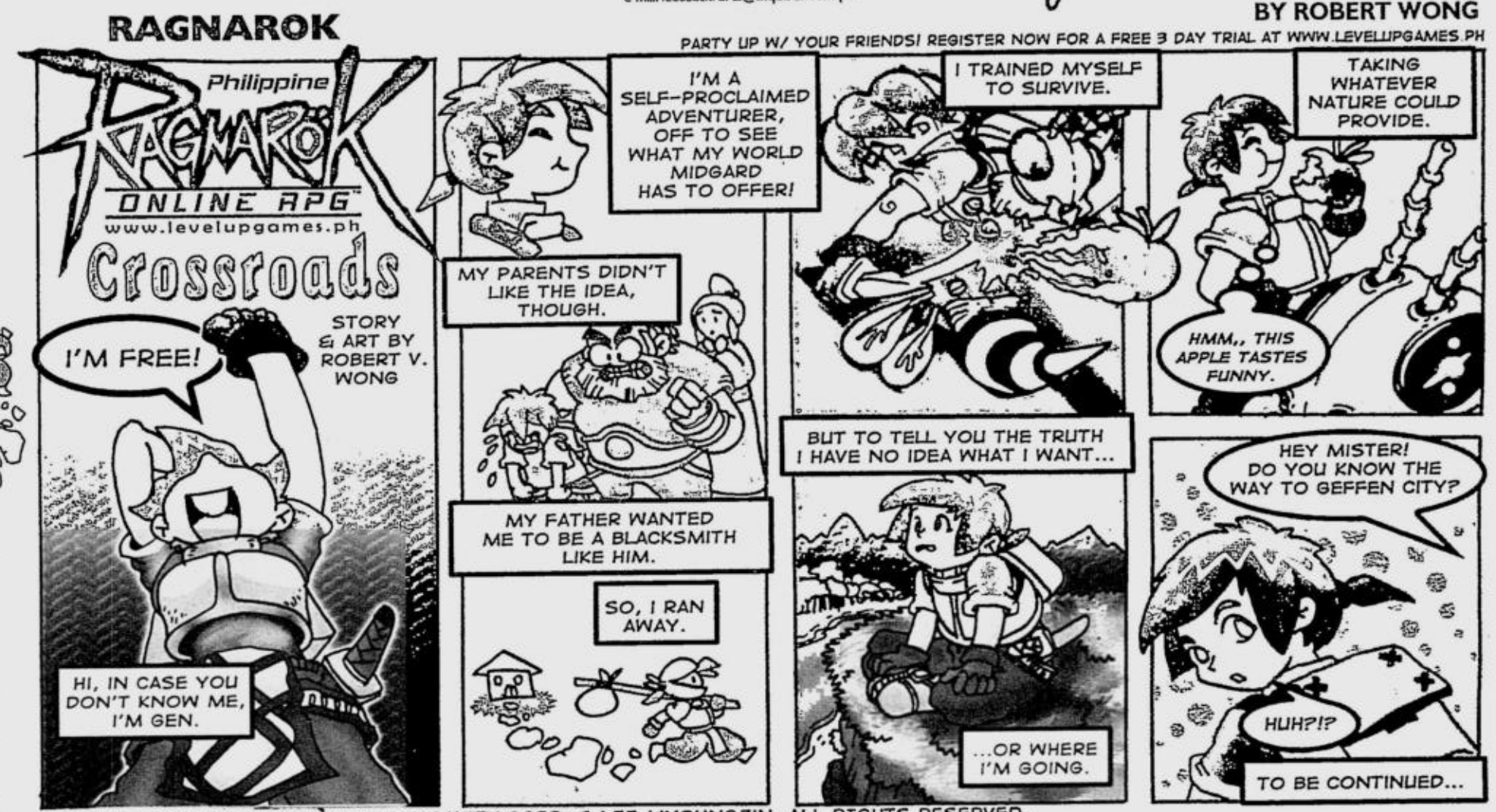
BY ROBERT WONG



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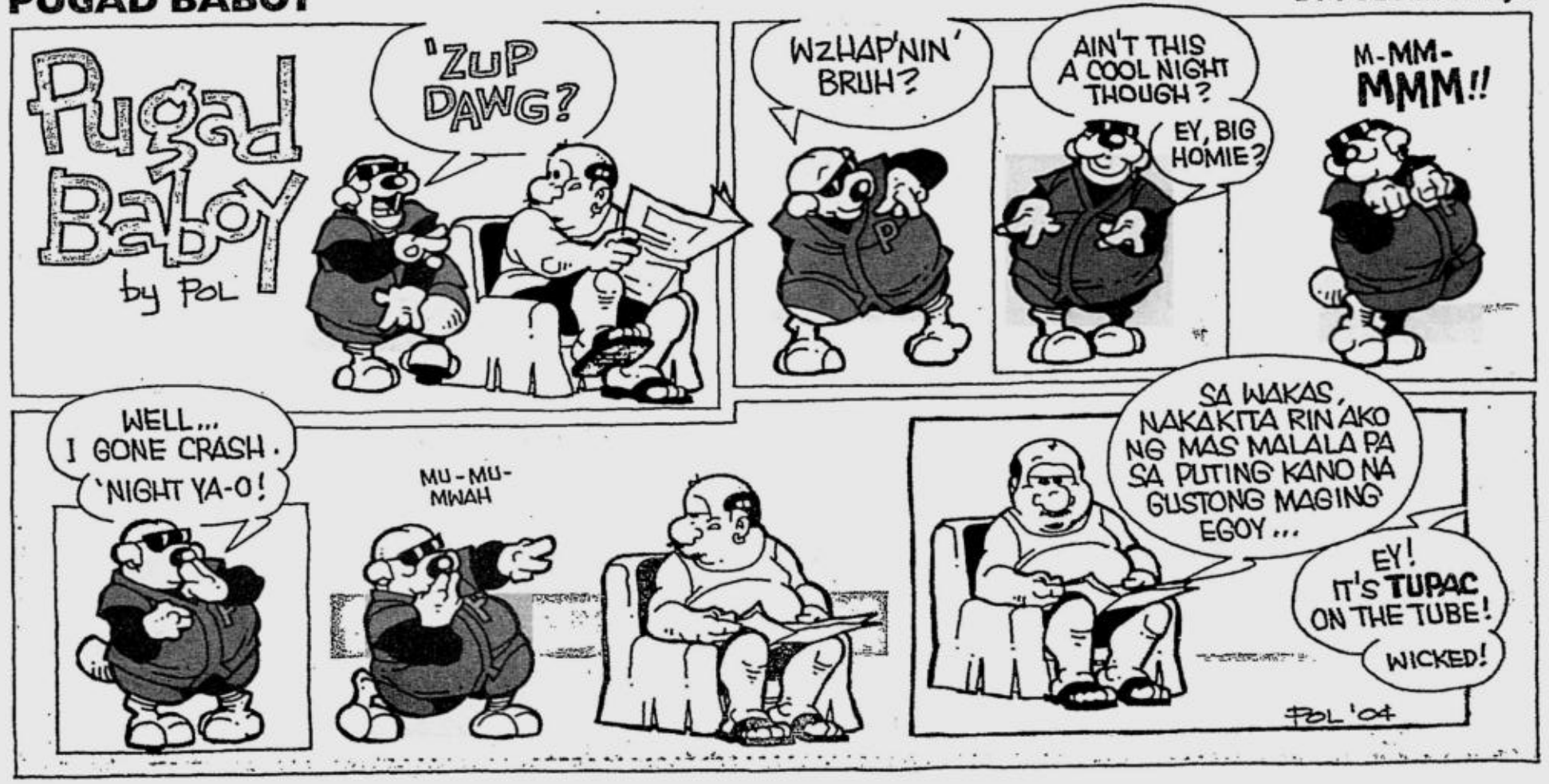


MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

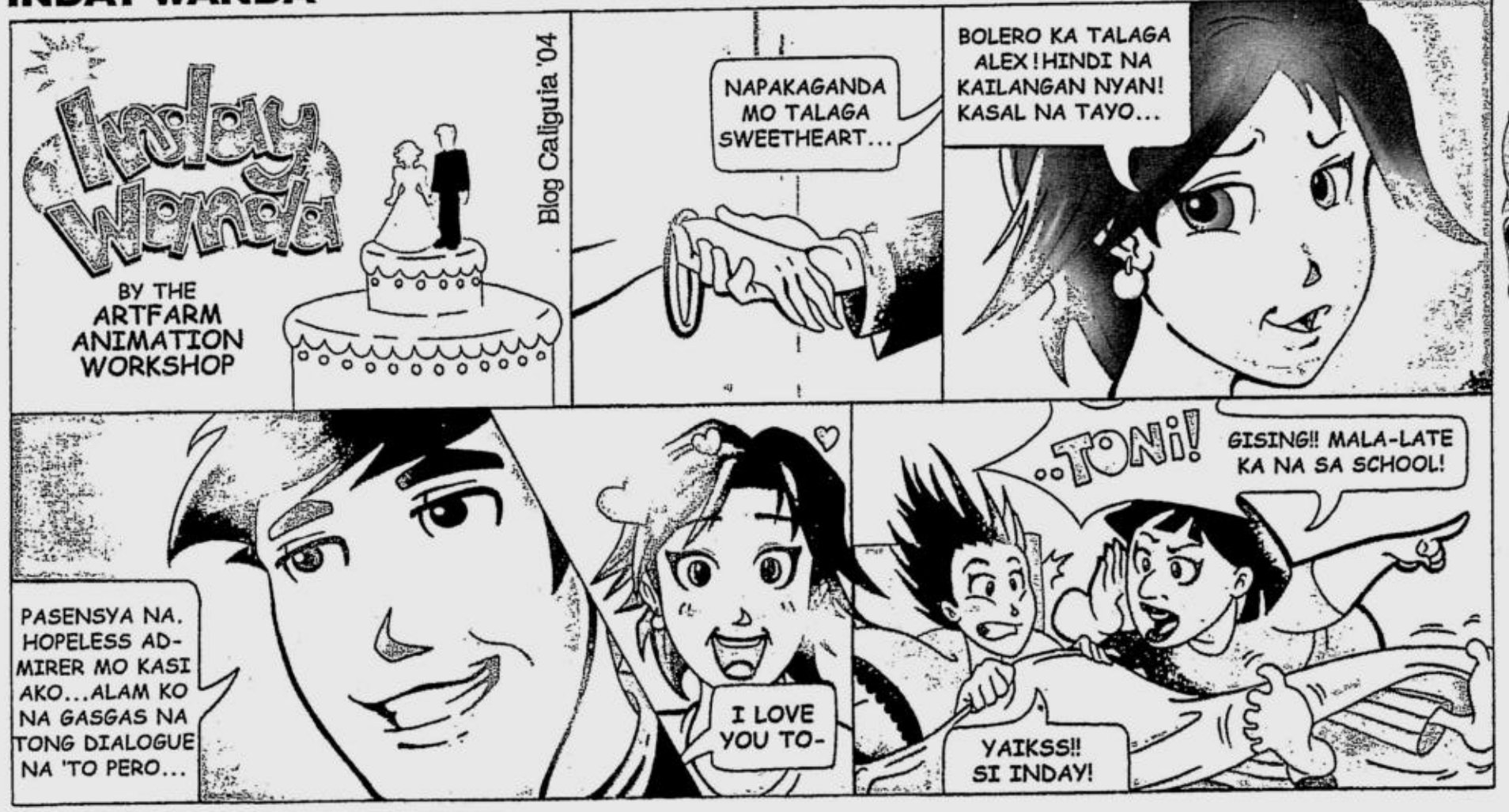
BY MIKE PETERS

ZITS

BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN

INDAY WANDA

BY BLOG CALIGUIA



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BY YONZON

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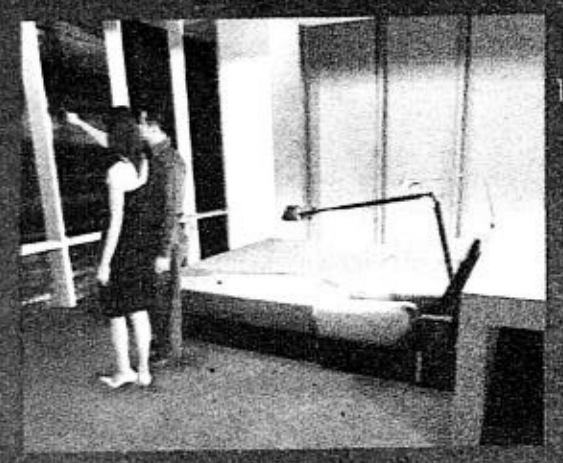

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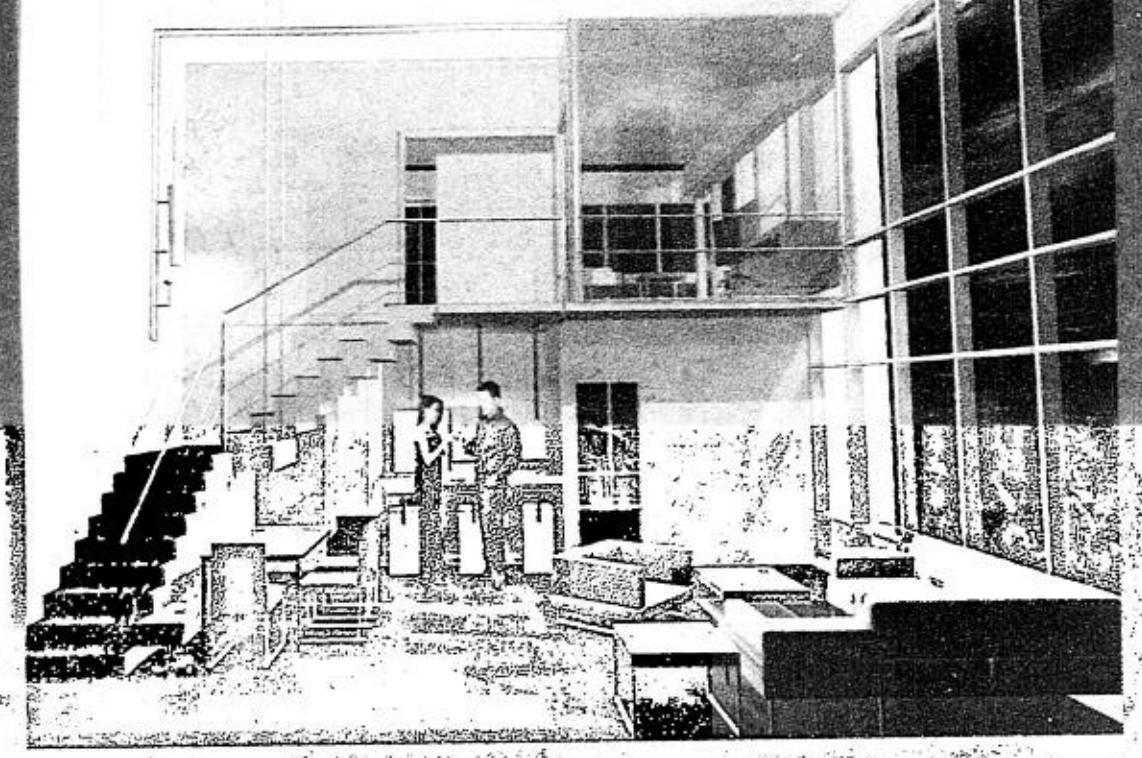

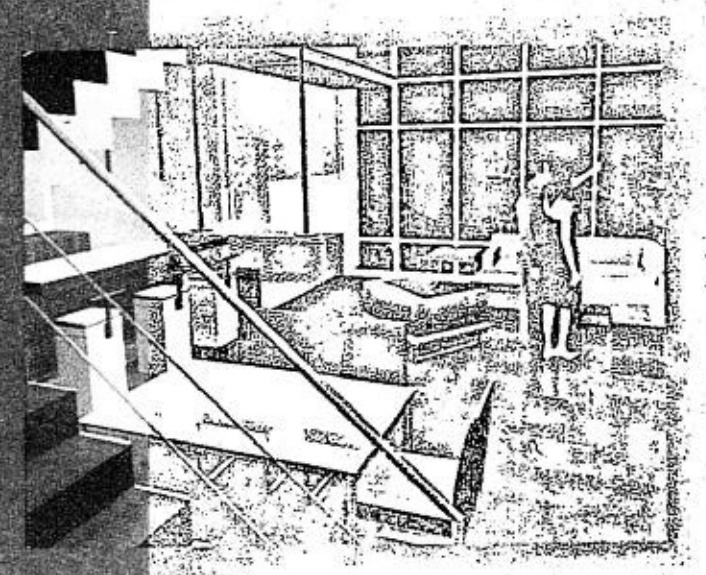

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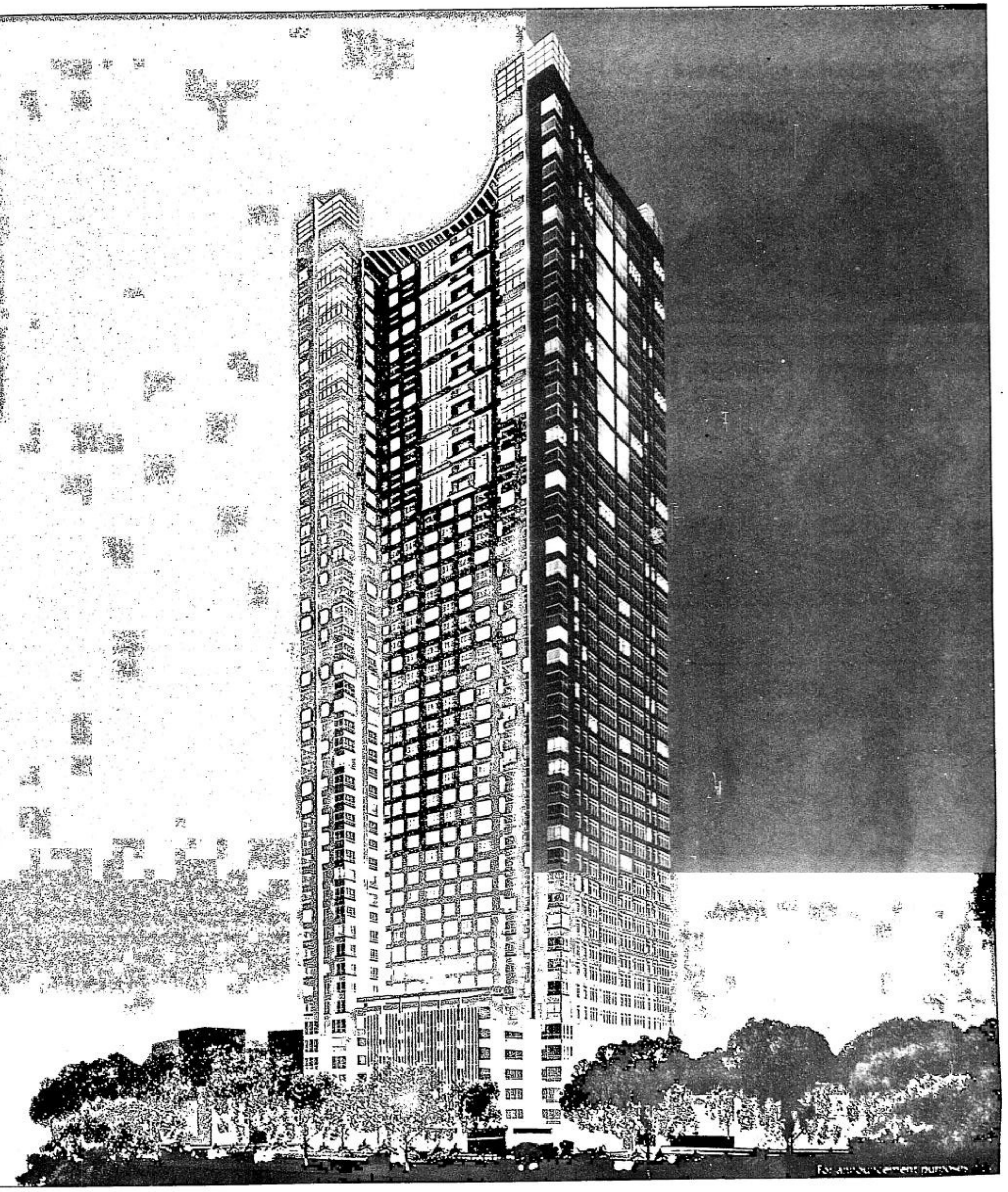

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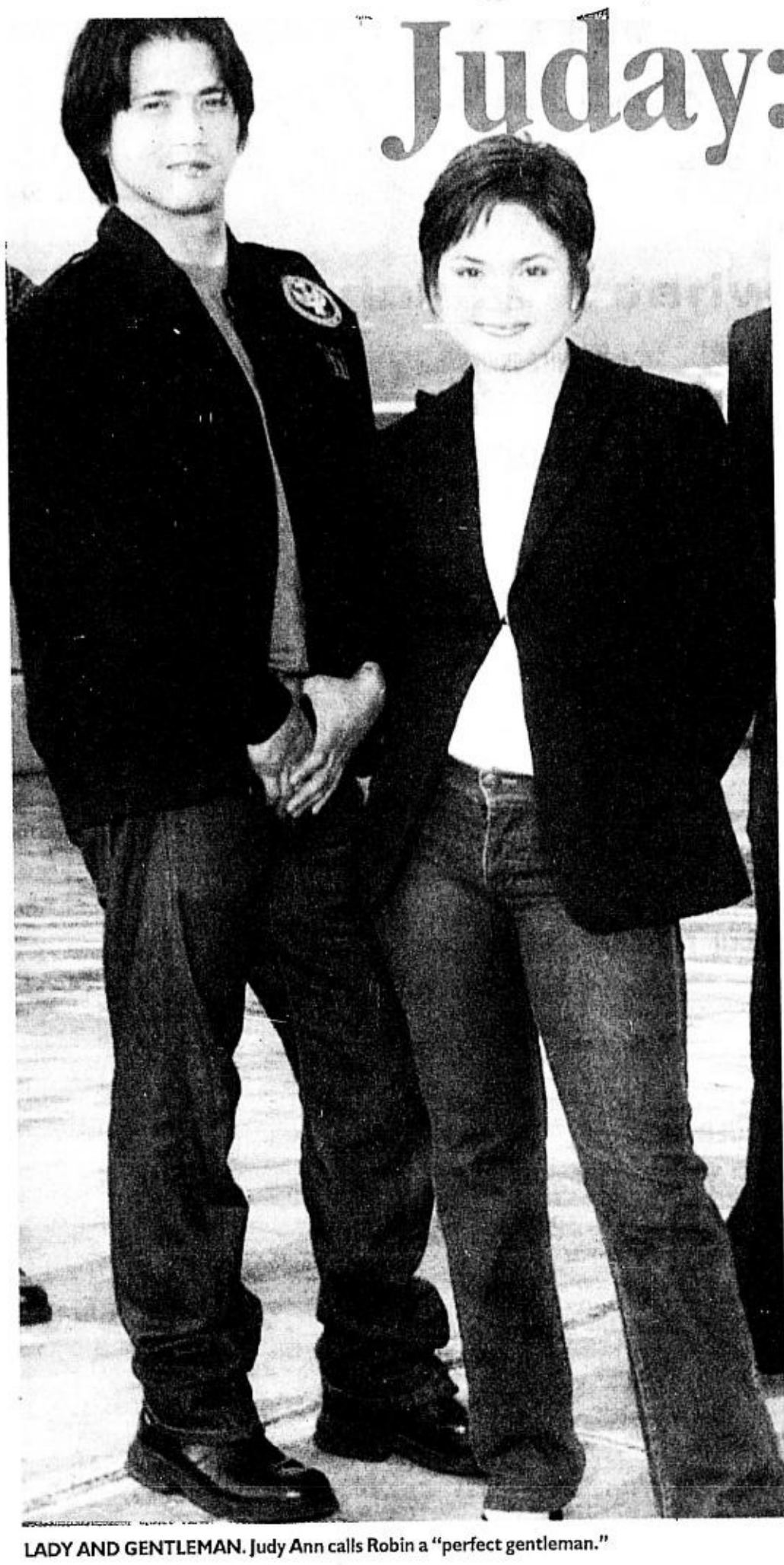
Juday: I miss Robin



LADY AND GENTLEMAN. Judy Ann calls Robin a "perfect gentleman."

By Jocelyn Valle
Contributor

JUDY ANN Santos admitted missing Robin Padilla, who was romantically linked to her while they were still doing the teleserye "Basta't Kasama Kita."

"I miss working with him and his being a perfect gentleman on the set," Juday said last week during lunch with the entertainment press.

Judy Ann, or Juday as she is fondly known in show business, also talked about the other men in her life.

After "Basta't Kasama Kita" ended, Judy Ann now plays a superheroine in the so-called superserye "Krystala," where she has three leading men—TV host Ryan Agoncillo, Sid Lucero and TJ Trinidad. This is Ryan's acting debut and is also a big break for Sid, son of actor Mark Gil. TJ was also in the cast of "Basta't Kasama Kita" and the only one among the three guys being linked to Juday.

Juday was quick to explain that she and TJ were just friends. "We get along fine," she said. "He's educated and a gentleman but he doesn't court me."

Piolo Pascual, her former love team partner, whose own hectic schedule prevents a reunion from happening soon, is also not courting her, said Juday. She clarified that Piolo didn't go with her when she bought a new model of Chevrolet SUV that cost around a million pesos. "You can even ask the people at the Libis branch of the car company," she said.

Love at 30

Wendell Ramos is another friend, according to Juday, although she couldn't help giggling while taking about the actor who was her co-star in the Joel Lamangan movie "Sabel."

She said she and Wendell used to watch movies together while they were doing the movie, which was shown during the Manila Film Festival last June, but they haven't gone out lately. She described the hunky actor as someone she enjoys talking with.

When asked if she would date someone who has a past like Wendell—who's separated from his wife and has two kids—Juday replied that what's important is the present.

> Juday made it clear that at 26, she has the independence to decide on heart matters, not her mother Carol or her manager

Juday made it clear, too, that at 26, she has the independence to decide on matters concerning her heart, not her mother Carol or her longtime manager Alfie Lorenzo.

"I want to focus on my love life when I reach 30," she said, adding with an impish smile, "but if the right man comes along before my deadline, why not go for it?"

Big regret

Juday also said that what she regretted most about losing the "Mano Po 3" project is missing the opportunity to work with Vilma Santos.

"It's unfortunate," she said in Filipino. "I would have nearly completed my resumé."

In her nearly 20 years in show business, Judy Ann has had the privilege of working opposite the biggest and enduring stars such as Fernando Poe Jr. ("Isusumbong Kita sa Tatay Ko"), Nora Aunor ("Babae"), Sharon Cuneta ("Magkapatid") and Maricel Soriano ("Nasaan ang Puso" and "I Will Survive"). Only Dolphy and Vilma are not in her filmography yet.

Juday maintained she didn't believe in reports saying Vilma, also known as the star for all seasons and mayor of Lipa City in Batangas province, didn't want to work with her.

Not selfish

In "Mano Po 3," Vilma plays the lead character Lilia Chong, whose husband Paul (Jay Manalo) has a sister named Bernadette who plays a vital role in the story. The role of Bernadette was said to be meant for Juday but eventually went to *balikbayan* actress Sheryl Cruz.

"If it's not meant for you, it's not really for you" was Juday's philosophical take on the issue.

"And I'm not selfish," she said. "If there's another actress who can do the role, so be it. It's sad but at the same time I'm relieved because I wouldn't be able to give my best to the movie because I'm also busy with other things. I also don't want to be a cause of delay."

Juday is currently shooting the historical drama, "Aishite Masu," which, like "Mano Po 3," is also an entry in the Metro Manila Film Festival in December. She is also taping "Krystala" four times a week.

Unlike in "Basta't Kasama Kita," where Robin did most of the stunts, Juday has the biggest share of physical scenes in "Krystala," which also stars Chin Chin Gutierrez, Emilio Garcia and Alma Concepcion as the villains.

Blue in the face

Juday said after the launch of the *superserye* that "Krystala" fulfilled her longtime dream and frustration of playing Darna, which Channel 7 is now preparing to turn into another high-flying series just like its top-rating "Mulawin." There were reports that she would do a Darna movie, just like Vilma did decades ago.

To prepare for her action scenes as the newest Pinay superhero, Juday said she stepped up her Muay Thai training and took up another martial art, wushu.

Being on a harness for a long time, for the special effects for her character, was already a big challenge, she pointed out. "It gets difficult to breathe and I end up as blue as my costume," she said.

She also tried to lose weight so she would look good in her tight-fitting, cleavage-revealing costume. But mostly she gave credit to the Leukoplast adhesive—for making her bosom look fuller.

"At first it was all right (to have Leukoplast around my chest), but after a while, it got really hot," she related. "I feel itchy until the following day after taping. But I have to be patient because I'm not blessed (with big breasts). Still, I feel sexy when I wear my costume."

'Sigaw': A shocker for December

ON CHRISTMAS Day, young director Yam Laranas and "Feng Shui" scriptwriter Roy Iglesias will take moviegoers on a heart-stopping ride via their ghost story "Sigaw."

A Megavision presentation line produced by Regal Entertainment Inc., "Sigaw" features Richard Gutierrez and Angel Locsin, the love team of the No. 1 *fantaserye* in the land, "Mulawin." It also stars Jomari Yllana, Iza Calzado, James Blanco, Ronnie Lazaro, and child actress Janella Denise Guevarra.

Richard plays Marvin, a young man who, to assert his independence from his parents, spent his savings to buy an apartment unit in a decaying building. He begins to regret the purchase when the angry sounds of constant fighting of neighbors and other mysterious noises keep him awake at night.

An unseen being assaults Marvin's girlfriend, Pinky (Angel Locsin), during one of her visits. Is it the scared little girl who sometimes haunts his apartment? Or something more evil?

Roy Iglesias' script for "Sigaw" was so bone-chilling that producer Roselle Monteverde-Teo wasted no time giving the project the green light after she read it. She told director Laranas, who had worked on the story and script with Iglesias, to assemble his cast, scout locations, and shoot the movie.

Laranas is also a gifted cinematographer. One of his most recent movies, the Richard Gomez-Regine Velasquez love story "Ikaw Lamang Hanggang Ngayon," is remembered for making Manila look beguiling on screen.

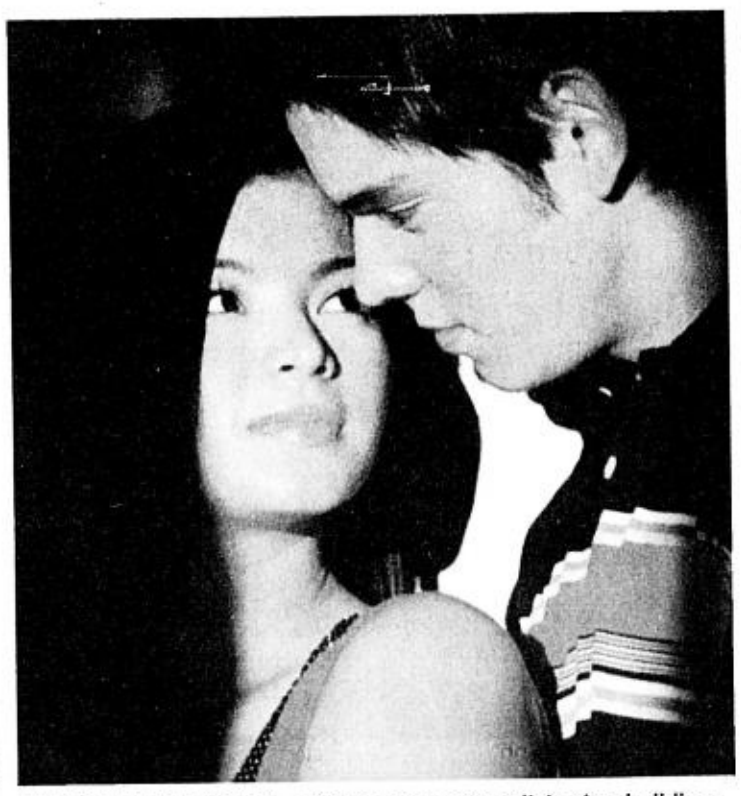
With "Sigaw," Laranas was looking forward to doing the exact opposite: He would turn a quintessential Metro Manila building into the creepiest haunted house ever captured on film.

Making the movie, it turned out, was a scary experience too. The cast and crew were frightened out of their wits on several occasions by unexplained noises and ghostly apparitions during the two months of shooting. "Sigaw" was filmed almost entirely in the abandoned Avenue Theater in downtown Manila. The actors and production staff swear that the old cinema house is haunted by restless spirits.

At the end of principal photography, Laranas added another feather to his cap when he was chosen by the National Geographic Society to make a documentary film about the Philippines, for exhibition next year. Laranas' proposal beat thousands of others from the best filmmakers in Asia when he was awarded one of only 12 coveted slots.

"Sigaw" will certainly be compared with other recent horror movies. Says Monteverde-Teo, "Sigaw" has a different story, younger characters, and a more claustrophobic mood compared with recent movies like "The Eye," "Three," and "The Grudge." "Sigaw" tells of a uniquely Filipino experience. Those who watch it won't think for a second that we copied any other movie."

"Sigaw" is an entry in the Metro Manila Film Festival Philippines (MMFFP). Megavision executive producer William Lao says, "I don't know why, but Filipinos love horror movies at Christmas time. We're eager to give moviegoers sleepless nights come Christmas and New Year."



HAUNTED HUNK. Richard plays a young man living in a building with strange noises and elements, including one that assaults his girlfriend, played by Angel Locsin.

Guess? what, Ai Ai and Erik are in one concert

FUNNY ROYALTY. "Queen" Ai Ai and "Prince" Erik

AI AI de las Alas did it four years in a row, thrice at the Folk Arts Theater and once at the Araneta Coliseum, thus earning the title Comedy Concert Queen.

Erik Santos has also proved he is a star in a million with his hit recordings. "Pagbigyang Muli," the carrier single of his debut album, has been in the No. 1 slot in dwRR's hit charts for 23 weeks now, and his second single, "Di Ko Kaya," has been unshakeable in the No. 2 slot of the same countdown for five weeks now.

Erik also has had soldout concerts here and abroad. He is now called the "prince of pop."

Ai Ai and Erik join forces with the magnificent 75-piece Manila Philharmonic Orchestra under the baton of Maestro Rodel Colmenar in Guess?'s major production for 2004, "The Prince of Pop and The Comedy Concert Queen... Two Solos, One Concert," at the Araneta Coliseum on Nov. 27.

Joining them are The Company, The Three Young Sopranos (Lesley Manlegro, Bianca Lopez and Kim Flores), the Whiplash and teen icon Sandara Park.

For six consecutive years, Guess? has been producing musical extravaganzas following its tradition of merging the classical and the contemporary. This concept of Victor Siasat, chair and CEO of California Clothing Inc., the local licensee of Guess? USA, and Colmenar was first implemented in 1998 with the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra playing the hits of Earth, Wind and Fire, Kool and the Gang and many more in "Philharmonic in Jeans," with the orchestra members dressed in jeans and shirts instead of the traditional tuxedo.

Year after year, Guess? staged command performances in malls with the country's finest performers like Regine Velasquez, Kuh Ledesma, Lani Misalucha, Verni Varga, Jaya, Nolyn Cabahug, and many others.

For its seventh year presentation, Guess? has signed up Bobby Garcia to direct its first grand production to be held in a major concert venue.

Bobby teams up again with assistant director Bong Quintana. It is the team that also directed the hit concert "Night of the Champions," which had two performances at the Araneta Coliseum and one in the US.

Tickets to "The Prince of Pop and The Comedy Concert Queen... Two Solos, One Concert" are available at all SM Ticketnet outlets (911-5555) and at the Araneta Coliseum box-office. Minor sponsor for the concert is Ratsky.

See'em all!

AYALA CINEMAS THX

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ATC (Alabang Town Center)	G1 (Glorietta 1)	G4 (Glorietta 4)		GB3 (Greenbelt 3)	ACC (Ayala Center Cebu)
THX 1 WHITE CHICKS	1 CELLULAR	1 SHARK TALE	5 LADDER 49	THX 1 WHITE CHICKS 1:30, 3:55, 6:20, 8:45, 11:10	1 THE PUNISHER
2 CELLULAR	2 WHITE CHICKS	2 THE DOLL MASTER	6 WHITE CHICKS	THX 2 CELLULAR 12:50, 2:55, 5:00, 7:05, 9:10, 11:10	2 THE DOLL MASTER
3 HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS	3 THE DOLL MASTER	THX 3 CELLULAR 12:35, 2:10, 4:15, 6:20, 8:25, 10:30	7 SKY CAPTAIN & THE WORLD OF TOMORROW	3 HOUSE OF FLYINGDAGGERS 1:25, 3:45, 6:05, 8:25, 10:45	3 TWISTED
4 SKY CAPTAIN & THE WORLD OF TOMORROW	4 SHARK TALE	4 STEAL		4 WIMBLEDON 1:40, 4:00, 6:10, 8:20, 10:30	4 SHARK TALE
5 SHARK TALE		GB1 (Greenbelt 1)		5 SHARK TALE 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30	5 SKY CAPTAIN & THE WORLD OF TOMORROW
		1 LADDER 49/ GERMAN FILM FESTIVAL			
		2 WHITE CHICKS 1:30, 3:55, 6:20, 8:45, 11:10			

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HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS MTRCB Rating: PG13

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WHITE CHICKS MTRCB Rating: PG13

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FENG SHUI SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING — SM City Manila Cinema 10 · SM Megamall Cinema 8 · SM City Sta.Mesa Cinema 1 · SM City Southmall Cinema 7 · SM City Fairview Cinema 1

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RESIDENT EVIL MTRCB Rating: R 13 — SM City Manila Cinema 7 · SM Megamall Cinema 6 · SM City Sta.Mesa Cinema 2 · SM City Southmall Cinema 5 · SM City Fairview Cinema 5

SHARK TALE MTRCB Rating: GP — SM City Manila Cinema 5 · SM City Sta. Mesa Cinema 7 · SM City North EDSA Cinema 2 · SM Southmall Cinema 2 · SM City Fairview Cinema 8 · SM Megamall Cinema 5

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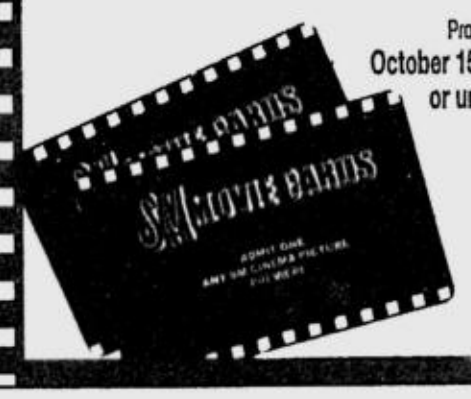

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SM CINEMA

Per BFAD Permit 1056 Series of 2004

DENVER

John Denver's very best

THANKS to state-of-the-art digital technology, John Denver fans have reason to celebrate.

For the first time, all of John's biggest hits have been brought together in one collection and given a fresh new sound. BMG Records Pilipinas recently released "A Song's Best Friend: The Very Best of John Denver" for the 7th anniversary of his death and the 30th anniversary of his recording "Annie's Song."

The two-CD set features all of John Denver's greatest hits, such as "Leaving on a Jet Plane," "Annie's Song," "Take Me Home, Country Roads" and "Rocky Mountain High." The songs, after remastering and remixing, have never sounded better.

The album also includes a bonus disc of five never-before-heard materials, including "Calypso" and an acoustic version of "Annie's Song."

The album will surely reawaken interest in an artist whose songs are plainspoken and heartfelt and who used his fame to further causes he deeply cared about, especially environmental conservation and easing world hunger.

Sadly, the man born Henry John Deutschendorf in Roswell, New Mexico on Dec. 31, 1943 was gone too soon. At 53, he died in an accident on Oct. 12 1997, while flying a plane.

In line with the release of "A Song's Best Friend: The Very Best of John Denver," BMG Records Pilipinas has an ongoing raffle promo in select Odyssey record outlets. Every purchase of the album entitles the buyer to one raffle coupon for a chance to win any of three specially designed acoustic guitars and accessories from Lazer Musical Instruments.

Other prizes are coffee mugs, posters and commemorative T-shirts from Page Exclusive USA. Promo will run from Oct. 4 to Nov. 4 with a grand raffle draw on Nov. 5, 8 p.m. at Hard Rock Cafe Makati during the album's on-ground launch.

"A Song's Best Friend: The Very Best of John Denver" is out now in CDs from BMG and is being presented in cooperation with Page Exclusive USA, Lazer Musical Instruments, RJ 110.3 and Hard Rock Cafe.

'Scooby-Doo2' available on video

SCOOBY-DOO and his teenage friends (Freddie Prince Jr. of "Summer Catch," Vampire Slayer Sarah Michelle Gellar, Matthew Liliard and Linda Cardellini) bring fun and adventure to viewers once again in "Scooby-Doo2: Monsters Unleashed," released by Warner Home Videos.

America's favorite teenage, canine-led crime fighters return home as heroes when a criminology museum offers an exhibition of the many ghostly disguises used by villains they've subdued. But when a number of the costumes come to life, will the heroes be able to solve the mystery while their intelligence and bravery are called into question? The adventure begins!

"Scooby-Doo2: Monsters Unleashed" is available on VCD at P250 as well as DVD at P595. The DVD also features additional scenes, with director's commentary.

DVD bonuses also include features on the True Ghoul Hollywood Story, how Scooby is made to dance, and learning how to dance like Scooby.

The bonus features also give an inside look on the movie's stunts, sets and visual effects, plus the music video of Big Brovas' "Thank You Falleting Me Be Mice Elf Again," and Simple Plan's "Don't Wanna Think About You."

The original DVD of "Scooby-Doo2: Monster Unleashed" is available starting September.

SCOOBY-DOO and his friends

Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX
3 DD Dolby STEAL
10:35 am 12:40 pm 2:45 pm 4:50 pm 6:55 pm 9:00 pm
4 DDD LADDER 49
12:20 pm 2:30 pm 4:40 pm 6:50 pm 9:00 pm
5 dts THE DOLL MASTER
12:40 pm 2:45 pm 4:50 pm 6:55 pm 9:00 pm
6 DD Dolby THE SIN
12:40 pm 2:45 pm 4:50 pm 6:55 pm 9:00 pm
7 DD Dolby SKY CAPTAIN
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WHITE CHICKS PG13 12:40,3:00,5:20,7:40,10:05
HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS - PG13 12:30,3:00
STEAL - R13 5:30,7:30,9:30
SKY CAPTAIN GP 12:40,3:00,5:20,7:40,10:00
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MIRAMAR — SEX BOMB / RAMPAGORA
ODEON — X-MEN 2
ODEON-2 — BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN — BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1 — SUGAT
TANDEM-2 — KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES — SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY
ACT-1 — SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2 — KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3 — ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4 — HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A — KARELASYON / NAG-AAPOY NA LAMAN
CORONET B — A MAN APART
QUEZON-1 — BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR — X-MEN 2
REMAR-2 — BOLD STAR

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A — TUKSO SI CHARITO
B — CLOSED
C

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CINEMA-2 — TUKSO SI CHARITO 2
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CINEMA-5 (DTS) — OPEN WATER
CINEMA-6 — THE PUNISHER
CINEMA-7 — RESIDENT EVIL: APOCALYPSE
CINEMA-8 — EXORCIST THE BEGINNING
CINEMA-9 (DTS) — WHITE CHICKS
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL) — CELLULAR
CINEMA-11 (SDDS) — DOLL MASTER
CINEMA-12 — SIN
CINEMA-14 — SHARK TAKE
CINEMA-15 — SKY CAPTAIN & THE WORLD OF TOMORROW

LORES
CINEMA-2 — SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3 — KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

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(LAS PIÑAS) — BUHAWE SUPREMACY
CINEMA-1 — FENG SHUI
CINEMA-2 — SECRET WINDOW
CINEMA-4 — BANGKOK HAUNTED 2

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL
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3 SHARK TALE 11:40, 1:50, 4:00, 6:10 8:20, 10:30 GP
4 SKY CAPTAIN 12:10, 2:35, 5:10 7:35, 10:20 GP

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2 HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS FS: 11:20AM 2PM, 4:40PM, 7:20PM LMF: 10PM (PG-13 with Caution)
3 LADDER 49 FS: 11:40AM 2:15PM, 4:50PM, 7:25PM LMF: 10 PM (PG-13)
4 WHITE CHICKS FS: 12PM, 2:30PM, 5PM, 7:30PM LMF: 10PM (PG-13)
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4 THE SIN 11:35, 1:40, 3:45, 5:50, 7:55, 10:00
5 CELLULAR 10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
6 WHITE CHICKS 10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
7 SHARK TALE 11:10, 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00
8 HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00
9 SKY CAPTAIN 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50
10 WIMBLEDON 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00

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1 CELLULAR 10:55, 1:15, 3:35, 6:00, 8:20, 10:00
2 THE DOLL MASTER 10:20, 12:05, 2:00, 3:55, 5:50, 7:45, 9:40
3 LADDER 49 10:20, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
4 THE SIN 10:40, 12:55, 3:10, 5:25, 7:40, 10:00
5 WHITE CHICKS 10:55, 1:15, 3:25, 6:00, 8:20, 10:00
6 STEAL 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:45
7 SKY CAPTAIN 10:55, 1:15, 3:35, 6:00, 8:20, 10:00

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2 LADDER 49 10:20, 12:30, 2:40, 7:00, 9:10
3 HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS 11:40, 2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00
4 SKY CAPTAIN 10:30, 1:10, 3:50, 6:30, 9:10
5 CELLULAR 10:25, 12:50, 3:15, 5:40, 8:05, 10:30
6 SHARK TALE 10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:50, 8:50, 10:30
7 WHITE CHICKS 11:50, 2:30, 5:10, 7:50, 10:30
8 THE DOLL MASTER 10:50, 1:10, 3:30, 5:50, 8:10, 10:30

NOVALICHES 935-3229 / 31
1 LADDER 49 11:00, 1:25, 3:50, 6:15, 8:40
2 WHITE CHICKS 10:30, 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30
3 THREE 12:10, 2:50, 5:30, 8:15
4 FENG SHUI 11:00, 1:20, 3:40, 6:00, 8:30
5 SHARK TALE 10:30, 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30
6 HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS 12:10, 2:50, 5:30, 8:15
7 RESIDENT EVIL 2 11:00, 1:20, 3:40, 6:00, 8:25
8 SKY CAPTAIN 10:15, 12:45, 3:15, 5:45, 8:20

Citisquare MALABON 288-0985/2575
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2 HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS 11:10, 1:30, 3:50, 6:10, 8:30
3 THE PUNISHER 11:10, 1:30, 3:50, 6:10, 8:30
4 THE TOOL BOX MURDERS 10:55, 12:50, 2:45, 4:40, 6:35, 8:30

CAINTA 240-4661
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2 WHITE CHICKS 12:50, 3:30, 6:10, 8:50
3 THE DOLL MASTER 1:40, 2:00, 4:20, 5:40, 9:00
4 TUKSO SI...CHARITO 2 10:20, 12:20, 2:20, 4:20, 6:20, 8:20

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BASIL Valdez

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BITUIN Escalante

MITCH Valdes

LEO Valdez

Show-stopper after show-stopper

By Gibbs Cadiz

REVIEW

ONE AFTERNOON a few years ago, we found ourselves in a small room at the food court level of the Shangri-La Plaza mall. A mini-show had been announced, and a crowd sat waiting on the floor just inches away from a low, makeshift stage that had nothing on it except a vintage piano.

Canned orchestral music started. From the wings came a slender, dusky girl in a 1930s blue dress splashed with pink flowers. Her movements were ungainly, she didn't look too attractive and was in danger of being swallowed by the swirl of dancers now congregating on stage. Then, she opened her mouth to sing, and out came an incredible voice, a vast, soulful torrent of sound inexplicably pouring from a tiny frame. She sang her jazz-inflected ditty playfully, powerfully.

Her name was Bituin Escalante, and she was playing "Katy" in the touring production of the landmark Filipino musical that had starred Mitch Valdez many moon cycles ago. That very afternoon at the mall, we became a fan, even if we had no idea who she was.

Since that time, as Escalante burst forth in the national consciousness with more pounds to her frame and the accruing glitter of divahood, we've often gone back to the memory of that afternoon, wondering how she would have burned up the stage had "Katy" been revived full-scale with her in the lead. When would she ever get the chance to rip into the part again?

Lavish tribute

In the recent stellar concert "Ryan Cayabyab: The Music Man at 50" at the Cultural Center of the Philippines, Escalante briefly stepped into the role of Katy once again, singing "Aba 'Ba Boogie" like a force of nature, and in so doing gloriously reaffirmed her dormant claim to this role.

In a night that offered show-stopper after show-stopper in lavish tribute to the country's most well-known composer, Escalante's performance was a high point, a drop-dead incarnation of the combined genius of Cayabyab's music and Jose Javier Reyes' buoyant lyrics.

Too bad it was an all-too-brief moment, sandwiched as it was between the passable growling of Angelika de la Cruz (who played the teenage Katy), and the stirring take by Mitch Valdez on "Minsan ang Minahal ay Ako," the now-classic stage anthem she and Celeste Legaspi sang in the original show. We never got to see that "Katy," but Valdez's spiky, atmospheric vibrato was enough to bring a glimmer of the magic that must have attended that legendary run.

If anything, the purest value of "Music Man at 50" lies not so much in its star-studded lineup and greatest-hits cavalcade, but in its ability to resurrect, if only for two nights, some of the touchstone sights and sounds that defined Original Pilipino Music during its heyday in the '70s and '80s.

There was Hajji Alejandro, still dapper and honey-voiced after all these years, opening the show with "Kay Ganda ng Ating Musika," the song that bagged top honors at the first Metropop Music Festival and formally launched Cayabyab on a remarkably prolific career in Philippine music. Young theater actors JM Rodriguez, Topper Fabregas and Sam Concepcion joined Alejandro for this number, but the original "Kilabot ng mga Kolehiyala" had no problem gaining command of the stage.

The rarely seen Basil Valdez stepped onstage, too, and sang a haunting "Kahit Ika'y Panaginip Lang." A bit short of breath now, Valdez remains an original—a lush voice married to a deeply poetic way with lyrics. What would OPM be without his definitive takes on "Ngayon at Kailanman," "Kastilyong Buhangin," "Paraisong Parisukat"? Cayabyab himself in the souvenir program calls Valdez "the best balladeer ever produced by this country." That night was proof of it.

Only one other Cayabyab musical, "Rama Hari," was featured in the program. But this one was distinguished by the appearance of Valdez, Kuh Ledesma and Leo Valdez in the roles they had originated. Needless to say, seeing these three musical institutions in one number was a thrill.

PIOLO Pascual

GENEVA Cruz

JANNO Gibbs

HAJJI Alejandro

JERICHO Rosales

Ledesma may no longer have the pipes of her "Ako ay Pilipino" days, but for sheer stage presence, nobody beats the Pop Diva. She was a regal vision onstage singing "Magbalik Ka Na, Mahal" in a silvery Thai-like gown with matching tiara.

The second night of the show also had Gary Valenciano singing an early hit, "Once Upon a Life." It was a beautifully shaded performance. Regine Velasquez was around on the first night to sing "Sometime, Somewhere," and we were told she, too, was excellent.

Playful, sophisticated

The young performers (especially Sheryn Regis, who sang a beguiling "Hello Joe, Goodbye," and the Akafellas with "Mamang Kutsero") were mostly good, and Janno Gibbs was a capable host, briskly pacing the show with his well-timed wisecracks and easy banter.

The one spoiler for us was Geneva Cruz, who couldn't resist embellishing "Kailan" to absurd lengths. Gyrating like a rock chick to a breathless, runaway vibrato, she made for the night's oddest performance.

Of an altogether different caliber was Grace Nono, who gave a spectacular rendition of "Iduyan Mo." Laced with strange, wondrous wails and ululations, the song became a priestess' clarion call to the elements—and further evidence of the elasticity and sophistication of Cayabyab's best material.

Masterpieces

Indeed, if rough generalizations can be made about three of the country's most renowned contemporary composers, then it must be said that while George Canseco equals profound romanticism ("Minsan Pa Nating Hagkan ang Nakaraan" is Exhibit A) and Willy Cruz is melodic purity ("Sana'y Wala nang Wakas"), Cayabyab goes for Bacharach-like wit and playfulness in his popular compositions. "Nais Ko" doesn't sound like any soporific inspirational tune you know, and "Now That You're Gone" is too understated a ballad by today's Ogie Alcasid-powerhouse standards (that's why it was perfect for Nonoy Zuniga's quiet baritone in the '80s).

But the easy charm of these and other musical soufflés like "Limang Dipang Tao" (performed by Agot Isidro and The Company) and "Tsismis" (great vocal work by the San Miguel Master Chorale) only highlights the sleek intelligence coursing through their intricate harmonies. They're pocket-sized masterpieces, and OPM is immeasurably richer for them.

The musical panorama that was "Ryan Cayabyab: The Music Man at 50" is a precious experience, not only because the recipient of the tribute turns 50 only once in his (and our) lifetime, but also because enriching musical retrospectives of this sort happen rarely in this country.

Cruz and Canseco are ripe for their own tributes, and perhaps Gines Tan and Vehnee Saturno a few years down the line. ABS-CBN deserves plaudits for bankrolling this concert. Let's hope it doesn't stop with Cayabyab.

E-mail the author at gcadiz@inquirer.com.ph

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ERRATUM

Due to a production mix-up, the SM Cinema movie guide that appeared in the entertainment section of the Inquirer on October 22, 2004 contained the wrong entries.

We regret the error, and apologize to SM Cinemas and to their movie-going public for any confusion this mistake has created.

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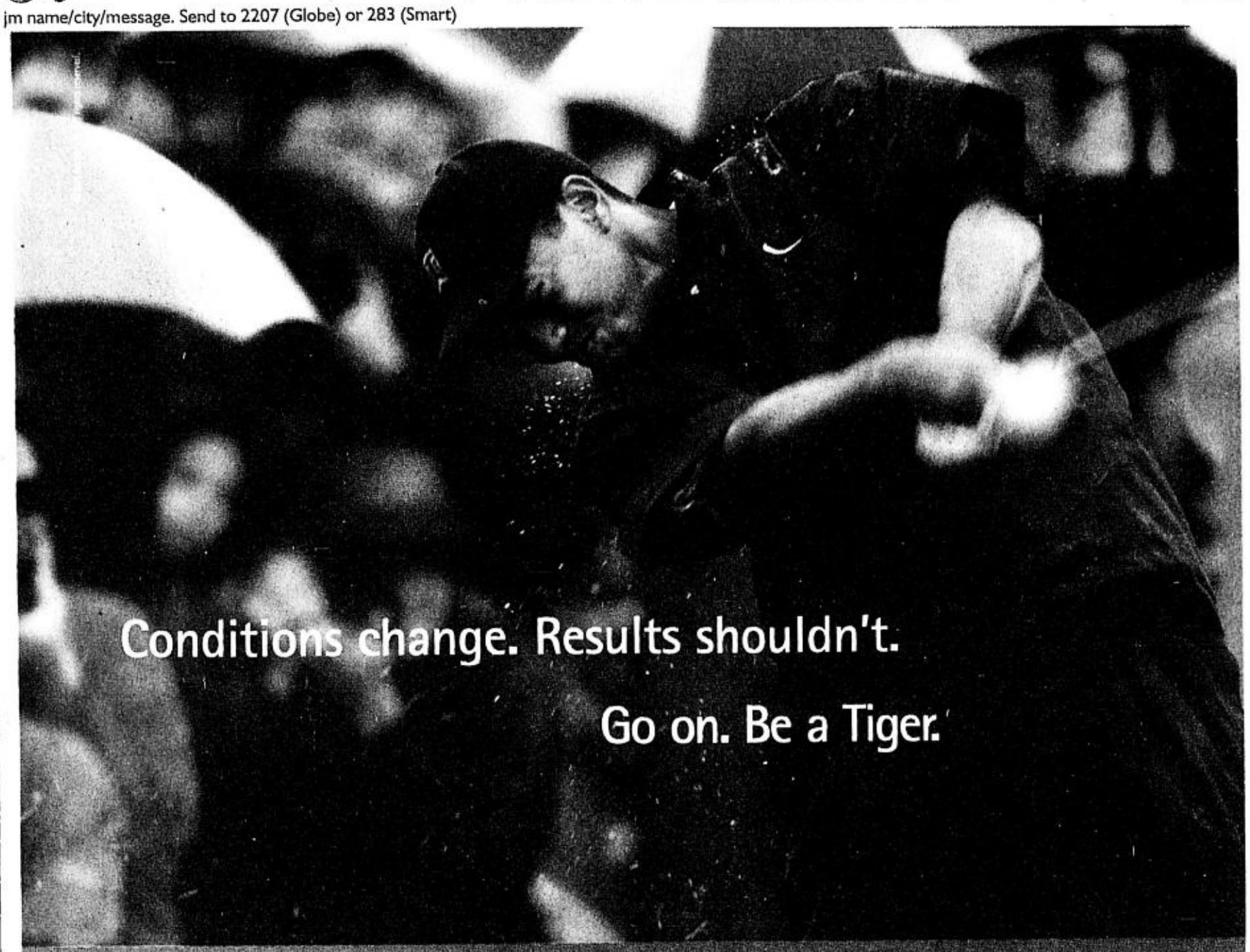

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YOU'VE *STAYED* WITH US. NOW COME AND *WORK* WITH US!

As the largest hotel company in the world, almost everyone has stayed at one of our many hotel brands.

InterContinental Hotels Group Reservations Centres are premier employers wherever they are located around the globe and we are currently looking for people to join our growing Philippine Reservations Centre!

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- **Will facilitate the design and establish the world's best quality improvement process.**
- **Must have an extensive experience in Six Sigma process. Green or Black Belt Six Sigma Certified an advantage.**
- **Able to handle Quality Management Systems.**
- **Must have 5 years of quality process experience.**
- **Must have advance written and verbal communication skills.**
- **A team player, flexible, enthusiastic, enjoys challenges.**

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Because with more than 3,800 hotels in 6 continents across more than 100 countries, *WE* are the most global hotel company!

Our frequent stayer program is the largest in the world with 16 million members to date!

Our compensation and benefits is considered one of the best in the industry and employees have benefits in any of our hotel brands around the world!

Walk in applicants are welcome!
29/f, Tower II, RCBC Plaza
6819 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
PHLRO.Resumes@ichotelsgroup.com

Applicants must be willing to work on a graveyard shift.

Previous applicants need not re-apply.

!!! JOIN THE WINNING TEAM !!!

BCSINFOSYSTEMS

BCS INFOSYSTEMS SERVICES, INC. is an international B2B technology solutions provider specializing in internet security, e-commerce, CRM and applications systems development. Our Makati Contact Center is in need of

50 TELEMARKETERS

for the strategic marketing campaigns of our **foreign clients.**

POSITION REQUIREMENTS:

- Proficient in Conversational English
- Willing to work the graveyard shift
- Hardworking, Motivated, Persistent Personality
- College Graduates Only
- Telemarketing Experience is a plus
- Preferably under 28 years of age
- Applicants with previous credit card or insurance sales experience shall be prioritized.

Interested applicants may submit their **resume and a recent ID picture at the lobby of our support office at Landsdale Tower, Mother Ignacia Ave. corner Timog Ave., Quezon City, or email us at hr@bcsinfosystems.com, Mondays to Fridays.**

Applicants' resumes shall be reviewed by date of receipt.

All qualified Applicants **shall be notified through telephone for interview schedule and/or interviewed by phone anytime from 6PM to 10PM.**

An expanding multi-million manufacturing company is in need of:

SALES OFFICERS

- Female
- Graduate of any BS degree course
- At least two (2) years selling & marketing experience
- Good oral and written communication skills
- Must have good PR and interpersonal skills
- Willing to travel and willing to be assigned anywhere in the Philippines and in Southeast Asia
- Must have a valid driver's license

Interested applicants may send their application letter, resumé, transcript of records and recent 2x2 picture not later than November 15, 2004 to the following offices:

Sr. Manager, HRM
P.O. Box 3321
MCPO Makati City

MR. RAZOLAND B. ROULLO
Sr. Manager, HRM
LIDE, Isabel, Leyte

MR. WALTER DELA CRUZ
c/o Starlite Maritime
Currimao Port, Pias Currimao

MR. ROLANDO VENEZUELA
c/o Agrofactors Warehouse
Pennsylvania Avenue,
Poro, La Union

MR. ROWENS CALIZO
Casambalangan
Port Irene, Sta. Ana, Cagayan

MR. JOSEPH LIM
Circimferential Road,
Lam-an, Ozamis City

MR. ERICK AGULTO
c/o FM Castillo, Tawiran
Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro

MR. ELMER TANAEL
c/o Naga Alta,
Door No. 3, Abilay Bldg.
Del Rosario, Naga City

MR. ARNOLD SAURO
c/o BM Road Barrio San Pedro
Puerto Princesa, Palawan

MR. RAMESES CABALLO
Rm. 9 Madrigal Bldg.
Madrigal Comp.,
211 Legaspi Ext. Cebu City

MR. KENNETH ADARNE
c/o FM Castillo
corner Lapu-lapu & Rizal St.
San Jose, Occidental Mindoro

MR. ROY TABINO
Reclamation Area, BREDCO 4
Bacolod City

Mr. NIEL TAHUMAS
Muelle Loney St.,
Port Area, Iloilo City

MR. VIC DABLO
Kibulda Gracia
Tagolcan, Misamis Oriental

MR. DOUGLAS DIEZ
PB COM (Ledesma) Bldg.
Port Area, Km. 10,
Sasa Davao City

MR. RICHARD LAURENTE
Ferchemx Warehouse Park
Saguil Road New Bohol
Calumpang, General Santos City

We are an ISO-certified Multinational Group of Companies with global representations; engaged in various businesses, all wholly committed to quality service and customer satisfaction. We are presently looking for highly motivated individuals to fill the following positions:

SYSTEMS ANALYST / PROGRAMMER

- At least 23 years old. Graduate of any computer-related course;
- With two (2) years experience in enterprise-wide system analysis, design and development;
- With working knowledge in web-launched systems, e-commerce, and web-based reporting systems;
- Proficient in VB6/VB.Net, SQL Server 7.0/2000/CRYSTAL REPORTS;
- Excellent oral and written communication skills.

WEB AND MULTIMEDIA DESIGNER

- At least 23 years old, College Graduate;
- With two (2) years or more of experience in web, graphic and multi-media design concept and development;
- Proficient in MACROMEDIA FLASH MX, ADOBE ILLUSTRATOR, ADOBE PHOTOSHOP, and DREAMWEAVER;
- Knowledge of ASP Programming is a plus;
- Excellent oral and written communication skills.

CALL CENTER REPRESENTATIVE

- At least 20 years old, College Graduate;
- Marketing experience is preferred but not required;
- Excellent English communication skills;
- With a dynamic and pleasing personality;
- Fresh graduates are welcome to apply.

Send your comprehensive Curriculum Vitaé with recent 2x2 photo before NOVEMBER 6, 2004 to P.O. Box 370 or hrd@cfsharp.com.

We are looking for qualified applicants for the following positions:

AGRICULTURIST
Junior Civil Engineer
Geodetic Engineer
Junior Architect
Materials Engineer

Experience, Relevant License and Computer literacy a must. Please send cover letter, transcript, and resumé with 2x2 picture to: Box 200 c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, Classified Ads, 5/F Bldg. B, SM Megamall, EDSA, Mandaluyong City

Please indicate current salary.

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ADB **Fighting Poverty in Asia and the Pacific**

Asian Development Bank's overarching goal is to reduce poverty and improve the quality of life of people in the Asian & Pacific region.

Accounting Assistant

The position undertakes a range of clearly defined and circumscribed accounting duties: carries out administrative functions as required; maintains and updates accounting records; maintains accounting/ internal controls; prepares accounting and other reports; and contributes towards preparing financial statements.

Reporting Arrangements

The position reports to the Financial Control Specialist, Financial Reporting and Analysis Section (CTAC-FRA), Controller's Department (CTL).

Description of Responsibilities

- contributing in the preparation of financial statements, accounting and other reports, as required, under the supervision of a senior support staff; assisting in ensuring that accounting reports are prepared in accordance with applicable generally accepted accounting principles;
- reviewing and identifying computer requirements for effective and efficient operation; ensuring the accuracy and reliability of systems; initiating changes to existing systems and coordinating the needs of the work area with the IT department through the coordinating officer in charge;
- maintaining and ensuring appropriate, adequate and timely controls in the preparation of accounting data, processing of transactions and in preparation of reports; recommending changes and improvements as required to ensure correct, complete and timely accounting;
- reconciling various general ledger accounts and analyzing and investigating discrepancies for review by supervising staff;
- processing transactions through preparing appropriate accounting journal entries/ vouchers and compiling relevant supporting documents; reviewing and verifying the accuracy, consistency and propriety of supporting documents for all claims, payments and other accounting transactions in compliance with accounting practices, established procedures and guidelines;
- coordinating, obtaining, and providing required information in accordance with established procedures in a tactful manner; and
- performing any other assignments as required, including secretarial support and the preparation of draft memoranda and external correspondence for supervisors' review.

Selection Criteria

- suitability to undertake the responsibilities mentioned at the required level;
- a bachelor's degree in Business Administration, major in Accounting; a CPA designation;
- at least three years accounting experience in a computerized environment of a large organization, preferably in financial or banking sector;
- detailed understanding of the relevant procedures and guidelines and their importance in the overall function of the work area;
- good understanding of relevant accounting policies, practices and systems, as well as general policies, procedures, guidelines and reporting requirements prevalent in large multi-national institutions;
- good understanding of the business process work flows of related areas and the interaction among them;
- good knowledge of an integrated Accounting system, such as Oracle Applications, and its interfaces with the other systems and work areas;
- good understanding of basic general accounting concepts and principles, and the application thereof;
- proficiency with computer software in common use at large institutions and specialized Accounting related software;
- proficiency in the use of computer data bases to input and extract information, and to generate reports;
- excellent oral and written communication skills in English;
- systematic and procedural work skills, numerical ability and great attention to details;
- good interpersonal skills; and
- ability to plan schedules in order to meet deadlines.

Established in 1966 and headquartered in Manila, Philippines, ADB's multicultural staff come from about 50 member countries. ADB's Headquarters in Manila generally recruits its (national officers or administrative staff) locally from the Philippines. The position is for a three-year fixed-term appointment. ADB offers a highly competitive salary and benefits package applicable to local staff. While the position advertised is for ADB Headquarters in Manila, Philippines, ADB staff must be prepared to serve in any location outside the Headquarters at the discretion of Management.

Apply electronically, quoting **Ref. No. EXT-AS04-176(4)-CTAC-FRA** and job title on subject line and attaching application form available on http://www.adb.org/Employment/appform.asp to e-mail address:CS-jobs@adb.org by **29 October 2004.**

Human Resources Division,
Asian Development Bank
P.O. Box 789,0980 Manila Philippines

Due to the expected large number of applications, only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. Applications lacking the job reference number and job title or using the wrong e-mail address will not be considered.

Rustan Marketing Corporation

Is in urgent need of top caliber individuals

GROUP PRODUCT MANAGER

- Female; between 30-40 years old
- Degree in Business, preferably Marketing or Economics, an MBA degree or units is an advantage
- Minimum of three (3) years solid experience in brand management and development of consumer products in a managerial capacity
- Must possess strong leadership qualities
- Must have excellent oral and written communication skills
- Must possess a pleasing and dynamic personality, impeccable integrity and good moral character
- Must be computer literate

SALES MANAGER FOR HOME CARE

- Preferably female; between 26-35 years old
- Graduate of a four-year business related course
- Minimum of three (3) years managerial experience in a direct/retail selling environment
- Preferably with experience in distributing consumer products
- Creative and with excellent communication skills
- Must possess a pleasing, aggressive and dynamic personality, impeccable integrity and good moral character
- Must be computer literate
- Willing to travel

BRAND MANAGER

- Female; between 26-35 years old
- Degree in Business, preferably Marketing or Economics
- Minimum of two (2) years experience in product management and development of consumer products in a managerial capacity
- Must have excellent oral and written communication skills
- Must possess a pleasing and dynamic personality, impeccable integrity and good moral character
- Must be computer literate

QUALIFIED APPLICANTS ARE REQUESTED TO SEND OR E-MAIL IMMEDIATELY THEIR COMPREHENSIVE RESUMÉ, TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDS AND A RECENT 2X2 PHOTO TO:

Rustan Marketing Corporation
HRMD c/o Executive Administration
Ground Floor Midland Buendia Bldg.
403 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City
E-mail address: embaysa@rgoc.com.ph

(We will reply to qualified applicants only)

WANTED

COST ESTIMATORS
• ARCHITECTURAL & FINISHING WORKS
PROJ. ARCHITECTS
INTERIOR DESIGNERS
SIGNAGE MAKERS

- PANAFLEX
- STAINLESS
- NEON
- BRASS
- ACRYLIC
- WELDING WORKS

cbconstruction@hotmail.com
Fax #: 6565150
2400061/2402696/6568325
#888 Maganda St., Riverside II Subd.,
Crossing Junction, Cainta Rizal

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

MEDICAL TRANSCRIPTIONISTS

Male/female; single; not more than 30-years old, a graduate of Medicine, Nursing, PT, OT, Pharmacy, MedTech, and other allied health courses. Must possess good command of written English. Can type at least 40 wpm. Knowledgeable in MSWord and the internet. ONLY residents of SAN PEDRO, LAS PIÑAS, MUNTINLUPA, ALABANG & PARAÑAQUE will be considered.

We offer ABOVE AVERAGE compensation packages. Very clear dictation. NO night/graveyard shifts MONDAY-FRIDAY WORKDAYS ONLY. Email your application letter and resumé to: HRD.MANAGER@AM-ACCUSCRIPTS.COM

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All positions

Take A Leap Into **YOUR Future!**

OUTBOUND / INBOUND CALL CENTER AGENTS
Junior and Senior Customer Service Representatives / QA Analyst

- College graduate of any 4-year course
- Proficient communication skills in conversational English
- Active listening skills
- Able to work on shifting schedules
- Experience in sales or in a call center is an advantage
- Fresh graduates/entry level applicants are encouraged to apply

TEAM COACH / LEADER
- College graduate of any 4-year course
- Proficient communication skills in conversational English
- Active listening skills
- Able to work on shifting schedules
- 1 year experience in coaching and monitoring of inbound/ outbound call center agents

COMPUTER PROGRAMMERS/ IT NETWORKING
- Graduate of B.S. Computer Science or related discipline
- Patient, hardworking, a team player and can work with minimal supervision
- Able to program in C#, .NET, JAVA, MySQL Database Management

ACCOUNTANT
- Certified public accountant
- At least 2 years experience
- Experience in call center accounts is an advantage
- Must be 22-35 years of age

ADMIN ASSISTANT
- College Graduate
- Experience with Microsoft Office

OPENING ON NOVEMBER 15TH * Full Service Contact Centre

Apply NOW at the Penthouse, BA Lepanto Building, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City * Email: jobs@ondemand.com.ph
Mon - Fri 10AM-6PM • Sat 10AM-4PM
Txt. or Call: 0915-5714366

We are a leader in delivering high performance solid-state drive and storage management solutions to the military, industrial, enterprise and consumer markets worldwide. We seek highly qualified professionals to fill in the following positions for our International Headquarters in Manila.

ASIC DESIGN ENGINEER

The ASIC Design Engineer shall contribute to the design architecture/specification for next generation storage networking products. He/she shall design and implement RTL from specifications; implement random, self checking verification testbenches using Vera; write automated DC and Primetime scripts using DCSH or TCL and analyze results.

- BS ECE, EE, CoE. Graduate degrees are a definite advantage.
- Must have 5 years experience using Verilog and front-end ASIC Design.
- Previous design experience in design or verification of high performance packet-based communication or storage networking systems.
- ASIC/FPGA project management experience is a plus
- Must have excellent oral and written communication skills.

CUSTOMER SUPPORT ENGINEER

The Customer Support Engineer will interface with customers to provide pre- and post-sales technical support. The CSE shall act as the first level of technical interaction for the sales team. The CSE shall also document calls and monitor resolution status and assist in troubleshooting storage products, write user manuals, and other technical material. The CSE shall interface with the R&D, Sales and Marketing teams from international office and headquarters on a regular basis.

- Bachelor's Degree in Engineering, Computer Science or equivalent combination of education and experience. Experience as a Technical Support Representative in a call center environment is a plus.
- General storage interface knowledge: SCSI drives, IDE and Fibre Channel
- Experience with Linux, UNIX and Windows operating systems, including Windows 98, NT, 2000 and XP.
- Must have strong communication and inter-personal skills, high customer and quality orientation. Must be able to work with minimal supervision.
- Proficiency in MS Office and Adobe Acrobat and/or FrameMaker.

Qualified candidates may send their comprehensive resumés to bntech@pldtdsl.net immediately. We regret that only short-listed candidates will be notified.

Leadership is lifting a person's vision to higher sights, the raising of a person's performance to a higher standard, the building of a personality beyond its normal limitations.

We are looking for leaders ready to take on the challenge of reaching new heights in their career.

VICE PRESIDENT - OPERATIONS
Minimum 10 years experience with solid track record in managing a multinational company and 3 years call center experience as Director managing. 1,000 representatives

OPERATIONS DIRECTOR
Minimum 5 years experience in a managerial position and 3 years solid track record in a call center environment as a Senior Operations Manager.

CLIENT SERVICES DIRECTOR
Minimum 5 years in Account Management and 3 years experience in business planning and development in the same capacity.

OPERATIONS MANAGER
Minimum 3 years in the same capacity and has handled 350 representatives.

PROJECT MANAGER
Minimum 3 years in Project Management.

WORKFORCE MANAGER
Minimum 3 years experience as a Workforce Manager. Experienced in Blue Pumpkin Workforce Management a big plus.

QUALITY ASSURANCE AND DEVELOPMENT MANAGER
Minimum 2 years in develop quality monitoring guidelines, analyze and implement internal quality performance via training, coaching and counseling, and the recommendation of systemic solutions.

SYSTEM ENGINEER
Minimum 5 years of hands-on experience supporting large enterprise level Windows 2000/2003 network design and administration including SQL Server 2000. Strong understanding of networking concepts including TCP/IP, DHCP, DNS and AD.

Leadership is action, not position.

ANTECH
Advanced Nutritional Technologies

Advanced Nutritional Technologies (Antech), Inc. is a health care company that develops, distributes and markets nutritional products. Our corporate mission is to enhance the quality of human life through innovative product solutions.

Job Titles: **Medical Sales Representatives (Code: MSR) / Trade Sales Representatives (Code: TSR)**

Job Summary: Both positions are Entry Level Field Sales Positions that prepare high potential individuals for successful management career in Sales, Marketing (Product Management), Training, and Business Development. These are jobs that require emotional maturity, a lot of discipline and focus, professionalism, high tolerance for stress and frustrations, but can be very rewarding

Requirements:
- ✓ University graduates, any four or five year degree courses
- ✓ Strong interpersonal and team skills – actively participated in extra-curricular activities in school or community
- ✓ Very good communication and presentation skills
- ✓ Must be willing to be assigned anywhere in the Philippines. Immediate hiring required for Cebu, Iloilo, & Bacolod
- ✓ Willing and able to work flexible and weekend hours when business necessitates
- ✓ High attention to sales, customer service, detail, and planning/time management and maintains focus to the task or job at hand
- ✓ Conducts him/herself in a manner that reflects favorably on the Company whenever working with employees, customers or other associates
- ✓ Professionalism, goal setting, teamwork, and achieving results are highly valued attributes in this position
- ✓ Demonstrates self-motivation, integrity, and quality in everything he/she does
- ✓ Takes a proactive role in identifying problems and contributing ideas for improvement
- ✓ Responsive to feedback as a means of self-development, work improvement, and learning.

For Trade Sales Representatives: knowledge and experience in handling Metro Manila key accounts supermarket operations is a must

Interested candidates must personally submit their updated resumes with 2 x 2 photo at: Antech, Inc., 25th Floor, Philamlife Tower, 8767 Paseo de Roxas, 1226 Makati City from Oct. 25 – Nov. 15, 2004. Initial interview will be conducted upon submission of resume.

Note: Please include in resume complete name & contact numbers of immediate superior(s) from previous employment(s). Previous applicants need not apply.

Make that move now!

Send your updated resume with picture and cover letter to:

Email: recruit@vxi.com.ph

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ACCOUNT MANAGER

- With salary of P130,000 – P250,000 per annum
- Preferably a graduate of UP, Ateneo or La Salle
- Must have at least one year experience in the field of sales and marketing
- Basic computer knowledge
- Good oral and written communication skills
- Must have flexible working hours

HR OFFICER

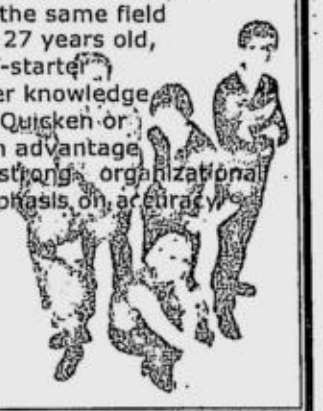
- With salary of P130,000 – P250,000 per annum
- Must have at least one year experience in the field of HR preferably in a call center
- Must have depth experience in management coaching, organization development and organization effectiveness areas
- Must possess strong leadership skills
- Willing to work shifts (night/day or weekend)

OUTBOUND SALES AGENTS

- With salary of P120,000 – P200,000 per annum
- Must have excellent Tagalog-English (Taglish) conversational skills
- Must have completed at least 2nd year college
- 18 to 27 years old, with outgoing personality
- Willing to work shifts (night/day or weekend)
- Basic computer knowledge
- Internet savvy

ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT

- With salary of P91,000 – P200,000 per annum
- Must be an accounting graduate and must have at least one year experience in the same field
- Female, 21 to 27 years old, must be a self-starter
- Basic computer knowledge
- Knowledge in Quicken or Quickbooks an advantage
- Must have strong organizational skills with emphasis on accuracy



GLOBAL 9, INC.

PLS. APPLY PERSONALLY FROM 3P.M. TO 5P.M.AT
Lapanday center, 2263 Pasong Tamo Ext., Makati City
Taking the MRT, get off at Magallanes Station and go towards Mantrade (5th bldg. from EDSA)
or SEND your resumes with ID picture to: hrcallcenter@yahoo.com; or MAIL TO: P.O. Box 892 Dasmariñas Village, Makati

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Our company is looking for:

LOUNGE CREW

- ❑ Male/Female at least 2 years college
- ❑ 1 year work experience in Hotel/Restaurant industry
- ❑ Minimum of 5'2" height for female and 5'5" for male
- ❑ Strong service orientation
- ❑ Pleasant personality

KITCHEN CREW

- ❑ All Around
- ❑ 1 year minimum work experience

Send your resumé to energywellnessintl@yahoo.com
or mail to:

30 Sct. Tuazon St. Unit 301 JGS Bldg. Brgy. Laging Handa, Quezon City. You may contact us at 3748424 to 25.

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For Our Coffee Shop soon to open at Festival Supermall, Alabang

We're a dynamic and aggressive group who values our teams' advancement both in career and personal development.

We're looking for INDIVIDUALS who are team players and would be part of the realization of the company's visions.

WE OFFER GOOD COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS.

The requirements of the candidate will be the following:

- Male or Female, not more than 30 years old
- At least one year experience in coffee mixing/ bartending
- Minimum of two years college education
- With good communication skills
- With pleasing personality
- Available for full time position

Please send or bring your bio-data with 2" x 2" ID picture to:

MICHELLE J. GUILLERMO
MJG Holdings, Inc.
OKPHIL Building, 1301 Estrada St.
Cor. Osmeña Highway, Manila, Philippines
Or send via-email to: okphil@pworld.net.ph

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We are looking for people who enjoy marketing and promoting FUN, INNOVATIVE, EXCITING products on the internet.
We provide opportunities to earn more through attractive sales commission schemes.

SALES AGENTS

REQUIREMENTS:

- Applicants must be highly energetic and entrepreneurial
- Must have at least 1 year work experience with an Outbound Call Center Company

Applicants may send their Resumes / Biodata to paul@ecustomerdesk.com or call Paul Fernandez at (632) 7574846; (920) 913 6915

RUSH HIRING

LEADING COMMERCIAL BANK!

50 Customer Service Clerks

- M / F, 21-28 y.o., 4-year college graduate
- At least 5'2", pleasant-looking
- Good communication skills to handle customers face to face.

E-mail resumé now with ID picture and credentials to **yescoop@amrop.com.ph** or hand-carry to
1704 Antel 2000 Corporate Center,
121 Valero St., Salcedo Village, Makati City
not later than October 29, 2004

AEROMART COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL CORP.

A well-established company is urgently in need of a competent person to fill-in the position of:

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

- Bachelor's degree graduate
- Female, not more than 30 years old
- Proficient in oral and written communications
- Highly computer literate
- Organized, flexible and hardworking
- Preferably with supervisory or managerial experience

Qualified and interested applicants may send their resumé with picture to:

Unit 1504 Robinson's Equitable Tower
No. 4 ADB Avenue corner Poveda Street
Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Email: aeromart04@hotmail.com

(All applications will be treated with confidentiality)

MAB Int'l. Services Inc.

Penthouse 2, Minnesota Mansion, 267 Ermin Garcia St., corner Aurora Blvd. Cubao, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. (63-2) 911-1218; (63-2) 911-9991
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We are the first and only licensed land-based recruitment agency authorized by the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) to deploy overseas contract workers to Australia.

Prospective Principal	:	M&M Healthpower Pty. Ltd.
Destination	:	Victoria, Australia
POEA Accreditation Certificate No.	:	74388

100 qualified Registered Nurses are needed

Each successful applicant are set to earn a base salary of AUD$633.90 for 38 hours (5 days) per week or AUD$2,535 for 152 hours (20 days) per month, excluding other benefits such as Over Time Pay, On Call Allowance, Recall Allowance, Travelling Allowance, Vehicle Allowance, Uniform and Laundry Allowance, Shift Allowance, Meal Allowance and Telephone Allowance, among others.

QUALIFICATIONS:

1. Must be below 42 years old
2. Graduate of BS Nursing
3. PRC Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses
4. 3-5 years hospital experience
5. IELTS with passing grade of 7

May bring the following:

1. Well-detailed Curriculum Vitaé
2. 2 pieces of passport sized photograph
3. Certified true copy of diploma
4. Certified true copy of transcript of records
5. Certified true copy of course description or syllabus
6. Certified true copy of certificate of registration
7. Original copy of IELTS score
8. Birth Certificate and/or Marriage Certificate

BEWARE OF ILLEGAL RECRUITERS

We are an industry leader in the case packaging solutions distribution and servicing. We seek highly qualified professionals to fill in the position of:

Field Service Engineers

The Field Service Engineer will be assigned to diagnose and repair machines in-shop or at customer site. The FSE shall prepare technical reports and train customers in the operation and maintenance of the machines. Candidates must be:

- Male not more than 28 years old
- Engineering graduate EE or ECE
- Possess at least 2 years hands-on experience in industrial environment (process controls, instrumentation, electro pneumatics, PLC, etc.)
- Working knowledge of microprocessor controls is an advantage
- Can perform board level diagnostics & repair
- Above average communication skills
- Able to work independently without supervision

Interested applicants may send their comprehensive resumés to:

Sourcemate Intl. Corp., Rm. 201, La Fuerza Plaza 2 Bldg.
2241 Pasong Tamo cor. Sabio St., Makati City
or send it by email at sourcemate@pacific.net.ph
Attn.: Ms. Cherry Sta. Cruz

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Looking for new business opportunity which requires low capital?

A chance to earn and be part of a new and dynamic company is here.

FOOD SPECIALISTS-COFFEE, ATBP. CO.,

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HURRY!!! Sites-locations available on a first come first serve basis.

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Fax No. 536-7347
Email Add: vicbolok@hotmail.com

Rm. 406 Femii Building
A. Soriano Avenue
Intramuros, Manila
E-mail Add: coffee ko_to@yahoo.com

Lingkuran sa Ikauunlad Na Ganap ng Pamilya
LINGaP Foundation, Inc.

A Local Non-Government Organization working with poor families (Family Development, Education & Youth) living in depressed areas of Malabon & Navotas is in need of

PROGRAM OPERATIONS MANAGER

Job Functions:

- ❑ Program Monitoring and Coordination
- ❑ Networking
- ❑ Supervision and Evaluation
- ❑ Reports writing
- ❑ Fund raising

Requirements:

- ➢ Graduate in development studies, social work or any related field
- ➢ Has good networking and fund raising capabilities
- ➢ Managerial and supervisory experience
- ➢ Experience in financial; administrative and program management
- ➢ Ability to establish good interpersonal relations.

Send resumé with cover letter, photo and a copy of transcript of record to:

The Administrative Officer
LINGaP Foundation, Inc.
105 P. Aquino Ave., Brgy. Longos, Malabon City 1472

Previous applicants need not apply.

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

Engineer for Prestressed Concrete Hollowcore Planks

The company is looking for an experienced engineer in the field of detailing of erection drawings and shop drawings for hollowcore planks. If you can do design calculations for hollowcore planks that is a plus. Work in the Philippines for U.S. based company.

Qualifications:

- Male or Female
- Candidate must possess a degree in Civil Engineering
- At least 5 to 10 years working experienced in the same field
- Computer Literate
- Can work under pressure

Kindly send your resume and other references through email: tsarda@usdetallingservices.com

---

ATTRACTIVE CAREER IN PRE-NEED/ INSURANCE SALES TRAINING!!!

HIMLAYANG PILIPINO PLANS, INC.
is seeking applicants for the position of:

AREA TRAINER

- Bachelor's degree holder;
- Preferably with relevant experience in insurance and/or pre-need industry;
- With excellent oral and written communication skills;
- Adept in the systems and procedures of the training cycle;
- Willing to work on weekends and do frequent travelling anywhere in the Philippines;
- With exceptional creativity, initiative, and high sense of motivation for achievement.

Interested applicants are encouraged to apply in person with application letter, curriculum vitaé, transcript of records, and 2x2 ID photo at:

THE HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
#1610 Triumph Bldg., Quezon Avenue, Quezon City
Tel. No. 927-9671 to 75 loc. 230/216

Henkel

Henkel is a world leader with brands and advanced technologies that operates in three strategic business areas – Home Care, Personal Care and Technologies.

The Henkel Technologies Group is one of the leading suppliers of adhesives, sealants and surface treatments for industrial customers. It serves the automotive, electronics, aerospace, metal industries, assembly, maintenance and repair, consumer goods and packaging industries. Strong brands, such as Loctite, Teroson, P3, Hysol, Multicore and Liofol are key drivers behind its success.

More than 50,000 employees work for the Henkel Group worldwide. People in 125 countries around the world trust in brands and technologies from Henkel.

Position available:

The Technologies group of Henkel is in need of a highly qualified individual to fill the position of a

Marketing Assistant

The position involves creating and designing brochures and advertisements; sourcing premiums and give-aways; research and analysis of industry information; managing of customer databases; organizing events such as exhibits and seminars; website management & content copywriting.

As a global player, Henkel provides substantial training and development opportunities and offers an attractive salary and benefits package.

Qualifications:

- Graduate of Marketing or a related Business course
- At least 2 years marketing experience
- Excellent proficiency in English, both written and oral
- Experience in Graphic software such as Macromedia Freehand, Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator & Pagemaker. Knowledge in CorelDRAW and Autocad is an advantage.
- Experience in copy/creative writing, layout design
- Some background in creating research and data analysis
- Flexible to adapt to changing priorities in a fast-paced environment
- Familiar with the Industrial Marketing setting or at least willing to learn.
- Knowledge in Powerpoint, Word & Excel is a must
- Creative, a teamplayer, determined and highly organized

Applicants may submit their resumé with a recent 2x2 photo **not later than October 31, 2004** to address below:

Human Resources Dept.
Henkel Philippines, Inc.
3/F Alabang Business Tower, 1216 Acacia Avenue,
Madrigal Business Park, Alabang Muntinlupa City
Email: **belcy.cruz@henkel.com**

DO YOU WANT TO BE A BANKER?

We are one of the most profitable and progressive universal banks in the country looking for self-driven, highly professional individuals who are highly enterprising, motivated, customer service oriented, and computer literate

Become a **Sales and Service Assistant**

> we want single college graduates who are 21 to 25 years old, who have unquestionable integrity and honesty, excellent communication skills, and above average scholastic standing

- *will be handling the day-to-day operations/transactions of the branch*

See us on
October 26 & 28, 2004 • 9:00am - 6:00pm

UnionBank Head Office
4th Flr Training Room (Excellence Room)
SSS (Makati) Building Ayala Avenue
corner V.A. Rufino Street,
Makati City

Bring your comprehensive resume, official transcript of records and recent 2x2 photo.

Previous applicants need not apply

www.unionbankph.com

Teaching staff

- Male or Female.
- 21~35yrs old.
- At least college level.
- With pleasing personality.
- Must be fluent user of English.
- With or without experience.

Computer network support staff

we offer basic Php 10,000~20,000
(+commision+ benefits...)
Advantages to native English user graduated
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INTERPEOPLE
English language center, Inc
19th floor strata 2000 ortigas center pasig city.
Tel: 687-2473

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"GLOBE TELECOM PROVIDES MORE THAN JUST LINES."

We advance the quality of life of individuals and organizations by delivering the SOLUTIONS to their communications-based needs. We provide quality and personalized service that exceeds our customers' needs and expectations. We are driven by a culture of excellence and innovation, enabled by best-in-market talent and superior operating effectiveness and flexibility.

Best Telecommunications company in the Philippines by Consumer's Choice & Dangal ng Pilipinas Annual Awards (January 2004)

Awarded 4th Place in the 2003 Far Eastern Economic Review 200: Asia's Leading Companies, Philippines (December 2003)

Personnel Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP) Employer of the Year (2000)

Sr. Account Management Specialists/ Account Management Specialists

- Bachelor's degree in Marketing or equivalent
- With at least 2-3 years work experience in customer service
- Experience in Sales an advantage
- Possess good negotiation skills
- Analytical skills required and keen attention to details
- Willing to work long hours
- Must be PC literate
- Should be Filipino citizen; height must be 5'3 for female and 5'6 for male.

Dealer Sales Account Managers

- Graduate of a 4-year degree course
- Must have experience in fast moving consumer goods industry
- Must have 2-3 years experience in sales & distribution
- Must have a driver's license
- Must be computer literate
- Pleasing personality
- Willing to be assigned anywhere in the Philippines

Customer Service Assistants/ Associates

- Graduate of any 4-year business related course
- Good communication skills
- Willing to work on shifting schedules
- Fresh graduates are welcome to apply
- Must be PC literate
- Should be Filipino citizen; height must be 5'3 for female and 5'6 for male.

Cashiers

- Bachelor's degree in Accountancy, Banking, Finance, Commerce or equivalent
- With at least 2 years work experience in the field of cashiering and/or tellering
- Must be customer service-oriented
- Willing to be assigned anywhere in the Philippines
- Must be PC literate
- Should be Filipino citizen; height must be 5'3 for female and 5'6 for male.

Qualified applicants who meet the above requirements may apply personally for an interview.
Kindly bring your resume, 2x2 picture, photocopy of transcript of records to
Staffing Operations Department
3F GLOBE Telecom Plaza I
Mandaluyong City
On October 25 to 26, 2004, 8:00 am – 5:00 pm

First 100 applicants will be interviewed in the morning and another set of 100 applicants in the afternoon of October 25 & 26, 2004.

Applicants residing in North & South Luzon are encouraged also to apply.

jartekresearchservices

is a growing company that performs marketing & product research services for an American-based tool company

We are looking for people with these qualities:

- self-reliant, versatile multi-tasker
- not the corporate type
- street smart & practical
- able to see the big picture
- interested in machinery & mechanical products
- have excellent written & spoken English communication skills
- age range of 21-26 years old with a college degree

We have the following positions open:

Technical Writer

with strong mechanical know-how aptitude, & interest in machinery; ability to work independently & meet strict deadlines; engineering degree or background, preferably Mechanical or Industrial Design

Website Developer / Internet Sales

with strong knowledge & experience in Linux, PostgreSQL database, Informix database, Perl/PHP programming experience, Standard graphic design software & PC & Apple (MAC) operations; can develop materials for the website; should maintain & develop e-commerce applications, databases, access to databases; & with aggressive sales orientation.

If you think, you're the one ...
Send your comprehensive resume with a recent picture to **resume.ph@smithy.com**

WE ARE IN NEED OF THE FOLLOWING FOR OUR EXPANSION!!!

INTERNATIONAL MARKETING MANAGER

- Not over 40 years old; preferably male
- Marketing graduate with exposure in furniture industry in managerial capacity.
- Well exposed in import / export and customs processing
- Can communicate well in verbal and written English and Chinese
- Strong negotiation and organization skills; aggressive
- Willing to be on short-term assignment overseas

MARKETING MANAGER

- Not over 45 years old
- Graduate of Marketing or any business course
- MBA degree is an advantage
- At least 5 years relevant experience in Marketing in a senior capacity preferably in the Furniture industry
- Ability to conceptualize and implement sales and marketing strategies
- With proven track record in sales and marketing
- With strong planning, organizational, leadership and negotiation skills

MERCHANDISERS

- Not over 35 years old
- Graduate of any business course
- Innovative, dynamic with keen sense of furniture trends
- With 2 years related work experience as merchandiser

Interested applicants should send their resumé with latest 2x2 picture not later than October 30, 2004 to:

CLCMV Corporation
114 Sauyo Road, Novaliches
Quezon City

Or E-mail: hrd@clcmv.com.ph

Join the
ELITE SALES TEAM
of
Citibank, N.A.
Accredited Service Providers

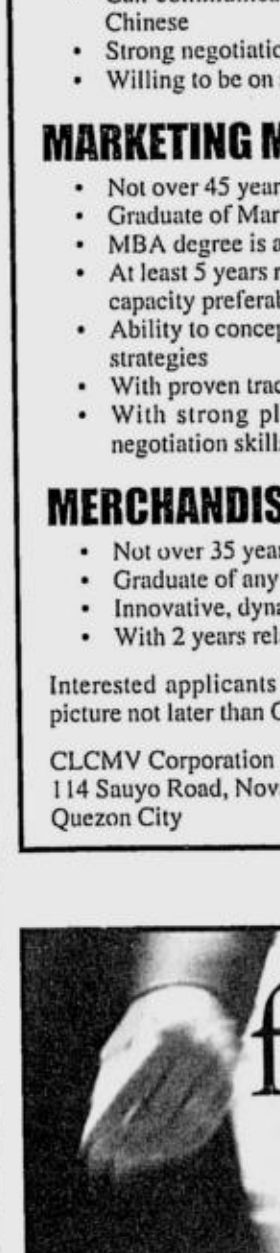
We will provide you with world class training and equip you with the latest in sales technology.

You must have the following qualifications:

- College graduate, customer-oriented, assertive with excellent communication skills
- A 1-year experience in Direct Sales is a plus!
- Preferably with a network of high income level prospects.

Bring your resumé and picture for an interview from October 25-29, 2004, 9:00 AM – 12:00 NN at Suite 1101 Antel Global Corporate Center, #3 Doña Julia Vargas Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

Income is based on a fixed salary per month, bonuses & incentives depending on actual sales solicited.



move forward

A forward-looking and dynamic group of companies in Advertising, Publishing, & Food and Beverages distribution seeks career-oriented and enterprising individuals for the following positions:

Account Managers

- Male or Female, 21 to 35 years old
- Business Management, Marketing or any Business related course
- 1 - 2 years experience preferred, but not necessary
- Must be proficient in MS Office and can communicate well in English & Tagalog, both written & oral
- Must be creative and a self-starter
- Posses strategic thinking skills
- Have strong planning & implementation abilities.

Interested applicants must submit their resumes and photo to:
The Human Resources Department
Unit 2614, 26/F Medical Plaza, San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. Tel: 687-0310 or
e-mail: adreflexintl@yahoo.com

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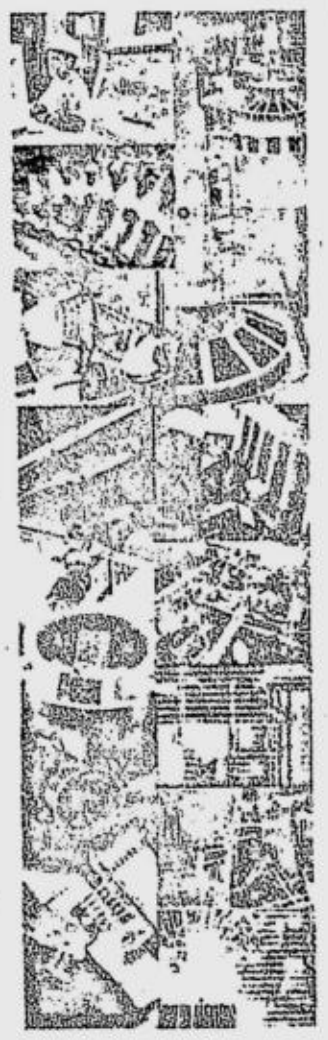

In Fortune Magazine's February 2004 list of "One of America's Most Admired Companies" Emerson ranked No. 1 for quality products and services and No. 2 overall on corporate reputation.

www.GoToEmerson.com

A unique opportunity within the Philippine Customer Support industry

SENIOR OPERATIONS DIRECTOR

For over three years, EMERSON and SYKES have developed a high-level and strategic partnership to provide a broad range of customer related services. Served from Manila, this relationship has grown to its present position of around 300 full-time staff serving over 40 different EMERSON programs or brands. More specifically, it covers an all-encompassing range of services: Technical Support; Customer Support; Chat Support and Web Collaboration; E-mail; Telemarketing; Technical Documentation and Transcription; and others. Many of these programs are highly specialized and have operational requirements that place them at the zenith of the industry.

The successful candidate will engage at a very senior and collaborative level with EMERSON. This open, pragmatic and strategic partnership will, we believe, create an almost unrivalled development and job enrichment opportunity.

- A driven, creative and solutions orientated individual
- A very strong communicator who can engage with senior level client executives
- At least 5 years commercial experience in a key management post
- Proven track record of success in managing teams or people and multiple projects
- Exposure to international business
- Willingness to work night shift

SYKES will offer a package reflecting the seniority and critical importance of this position. Additionally, you can expect a comprehensive immersion and induction program to familiarize yourself with both SYKES and EMERSON. This will include a US trip to EMERSON Head Office.

If you are interested in this special opportunity, please send your curriculum vitae to HRD-EMERSON@man.ph.sykes.com

EMERSON

Emerson and SYKES work together to provide innovative products and superior customer service.

Join us and be part of the success.

SYKES is an equal-opportunity employer and multi-national company, admired for its global leadership in customer care.

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HR RECRUITMENT OFFICE
19/F One San Miguel Avenue Building
San Miguel Avenue corner Shaw Boulevard
Pasig City 1600

4/F San Miguel Properties Center
Saint Francis Street, Ortigas Center
Mandaluyong City 1550

MAKATI
26/F Robinsons Summit Center
6783 Ayala Avenue
Makati City 1226

34/F Burgundy Corporate Tower
252 Senator Gil Puyat Avenue
Makati City 1200

CEBU
KRC Commercial Building 1
National Highway, Subangdaku
Mandaue City, Cebu 6014

For inquiries, please call:
Manila (02) 817-8781
Cebu (032) 348-9898
www.sykes.com

SYKES. The recognized pioneer in the Philippine support center industry.

SYKES Real People. Real Solutions.

SanGiovani SanGiovani *the newest Network Marketing Company in the country is in search of dynamic and dedicated individuals for immediate hiring to join our team.*

1. **MARKETING & SALES TRAINING OFFICER** – will be the responsible of all Sales, Marketing and Training activities of the company. Must have a background in Nutrition and must have ample experience as a Trainor in a Network Marketing company. Must speak and write English and Tagalog fluently. Must be knowledgeable in conducting Training needs analysis and preparing and conducting Training Modules, both for the Distributors and the employees. Takes charge of all Training and Sales events of the company. Must be Female with a knock-out personality. May be single or married. Must be computer literate.
2. **SALES & PROMOTIONS ASSISTANT** – should be an all-around who will ably assist the Mktg. & Sales Training Officer in disposing her responsibilities. Should be very good in keeping and tracking of records. Must be quick and agile while maintaining a sunny disposition. Very good "people skills" and has the facility in speaking and writing in either English or Tagalog. Must be very creative and hip. Willing to work long hours. Must be a Female, Communication Arts graduate, preferably single. Computer literate.
3. **COMPUTER OPERATOR** – Encoding and processing of all counter transactions. Must be sales oriented as well and very patient with distributors. Must be a computer-related course graduate who is determined and industrious at work. Willing to work beyond office hours. Preferably Female & Single.
4. **CASHIER** – Handles all cash and check payments. Responsible in ensuring the safety and integrity of the cash collection. Must possess pleasing personality and enormous patience. Must be a business course graduate, preferably with experience as a cashier in a Direct Selling or Network company. Must be Female, single or married. Willing to work beyond office hours.
5. **ACCOUNTING CLERKS** – responsible in handling all accounting and record keeping tasks. Must have had experience or is familiar with all aspects of the Accounting cycle. Preferably female, single & willing to work long hours.
6. **RECEPTIONIST & TELEPHONE OPERATOR** – responsible in handling all incoming and outgoing communication in the office. Must be female, single, has a pleasing personality, a good speaking voice, can converse very well in English and has very good telephone manners.

We offer above average compensation package and the opportunity to work with a highly professional organization.

If you have what it takes to be part of our team, we welcome you to apply and submit your comprehensive resume with 2x2 recent picture by email or personally at: No. 8 ACSIE Road, Severina Industrial Compound, Km. 16, West Service Road, Parañaque City or e-mail to: aloevera@info.com.ph

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An expanding progressive company is urgently in need of the following:

ACCOUNTANTS
ACCOUNTING CLERKS/BOOKKEEPERS
CHEMICAL/MECHANICAL ENGINEERS
TECHNICIANS
FEMALE MARKETING ASSISTANT
SALESMAN/INVENTORY CLERK
EXECUTIVE/COMPANY DRIVERS
(with more than 10 years driving experience)

Qualifications:
- Preferably with working experience
- Computer literate/familiar with windows and office
- Hardworking, reliable and responsible
- Good moral character, work ethics and pleasing personality
- Proficient in English/Tagalog
- Good oral & written communication skills

Qualified applicant kindly send in your detailed resumé and transcript together with an inexpensive photo to:

Personnel Manager
P.O. Box 380
1502 Greenhills, Metro Manila, Philippines

The League of Cities of the Philippines (LCP) is executing a component under a Japanese Grant for the Preparation of the City Development and Investment Project (CDIP), an investment program to finance priority projects of CDS cities. This component shall focus on three main activities: a) enhancing the capital investment planning (CIP) component of the city development strategy process (CDS); b) piloting the new CDS with the enhanced CIP component; and c) supporting the LCP Mayor's Consultative Committee for the institutionalization of CDS in the Philippines. It is a 12-month project that will be administered by the LCP through a Project Management Team.

The LCP is looking for qualified professionals to comprise the Project Team on a full-time basis:

1. **Finance Specialist**
   - Responsibility: To develop and implement a business plan for improving the capital investment planning of CDS cities, linking priority programs and projects with financing mechanisms.
   - Activities: develop a business plan for improving capital investment planning of cities, provide technical assistance to cities, establish a network of financial advisors
   - Qualifications: BS BA/PA specializing in finance; At least 2 years work experience in the local finance industry; knowledge of LGU operations and financing framework; understanding of ODA projects and implementation; technical writing skills;
2. **Knowledge Manager**
   - Responsibility: To develop and implement an effective KM strategy that will capture the lessons learned in the implementation of the project, disseminate the outputs to the target audience, and expand the CDS Knowledge Sharing Network.
   - Activities: develop and implement a knowledge sharing strategy for disseminating outputs from the project; establish networks/partnerships; establish strong relations with the media; maintain and enhance the existing knowledge sharing platform
   - Qualifications: BS in Journalism/Communications/Marketing and/or experience in Public Relations; at least 2 years progressive work experience in features and/or technical writing and knowledge management work, some experience in website and data management; excellent communication skills, written and oral; demonstrated media contacts
3. **Technical Assistant**
   - Responsibility: To support the National Coordinator and the Project Management Team in implementing the project components.
   - Activities: manage the day-to-day operations in the project office; maintain communications with partners and participating cities; organize and coordinate meetings, forums, workshops, etc., including logistical arrangements
   - Qualifications: BS in Management or other related expertise; at least 2 years work experience in office and events management; good communication skills; established contacts in media, public and private sectors

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR CV NO LATER THAN NOVEMBER 1, 2004 TO:

The President, League of Cities of the Philippines
LCP Building Lemery corner Estrada Sts., Manila
Or fax to: (02) 521-6461 local 102 or e-mail to secretariat@lcp.org.ph

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KERRY INGREDIENTS
is in need of a
SALES MANAGER
for its representative office in the Philippines.

The Job: Working with a select range of food ingredient technologies from Kerry's global portfolio, the role of Sales Manager is to rapidly expand the company's market penetration in the Philippines.

Requirements:
- University degree, preferably in Food Science/Food Technology
- 3-4 yrs. industrial sales experience (ideally with a multinational company)
- excellent communication skills to interact at different organizational levels
- proactive, able to make things happen, & to work independently as well as in teams
- mature, flexible and adaptable to an unstructured work environment

Please send CV to beth.llanto@kerrybioscience.com no later than November 3, 2004

---

150 Call Center Agents For IMMEDIATE Hire

US Based company is looking for Call Center Agents with the following qualifications:

- Excellent command of both written and spoken English
- Reliable, enthusiastic, upbeat personality, get along well with co-workers
- Pleasant, articulate, confident phone voice
- Customer service oriented-enjoy helping people & going the "extra mile" to meet each customer's needs
- Excellent Computer Skills
- Organized and able to take clear, concise notes (we document every customer service transaction we have with our clients)

You will join a busy call center who responds in excellence to calls for information about order status, RMA, online terms and conditions, etc. You will also be able to take orders for phone in customers. Our philosophy is to serve our customers with five star services, to follow through with our commitments and promises, and to have a good time doing it.

Experience:
2 years of work experience in a corporate environment.
Ability to work with complex situations that may not have a prescribed resolution.

Email application letter and resumé to imrcallcenter@yahoo.com

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Get a chance to win a MOTOROLA E398 — the only surround sound mobile phone in the Philippines — in the monthly draws!

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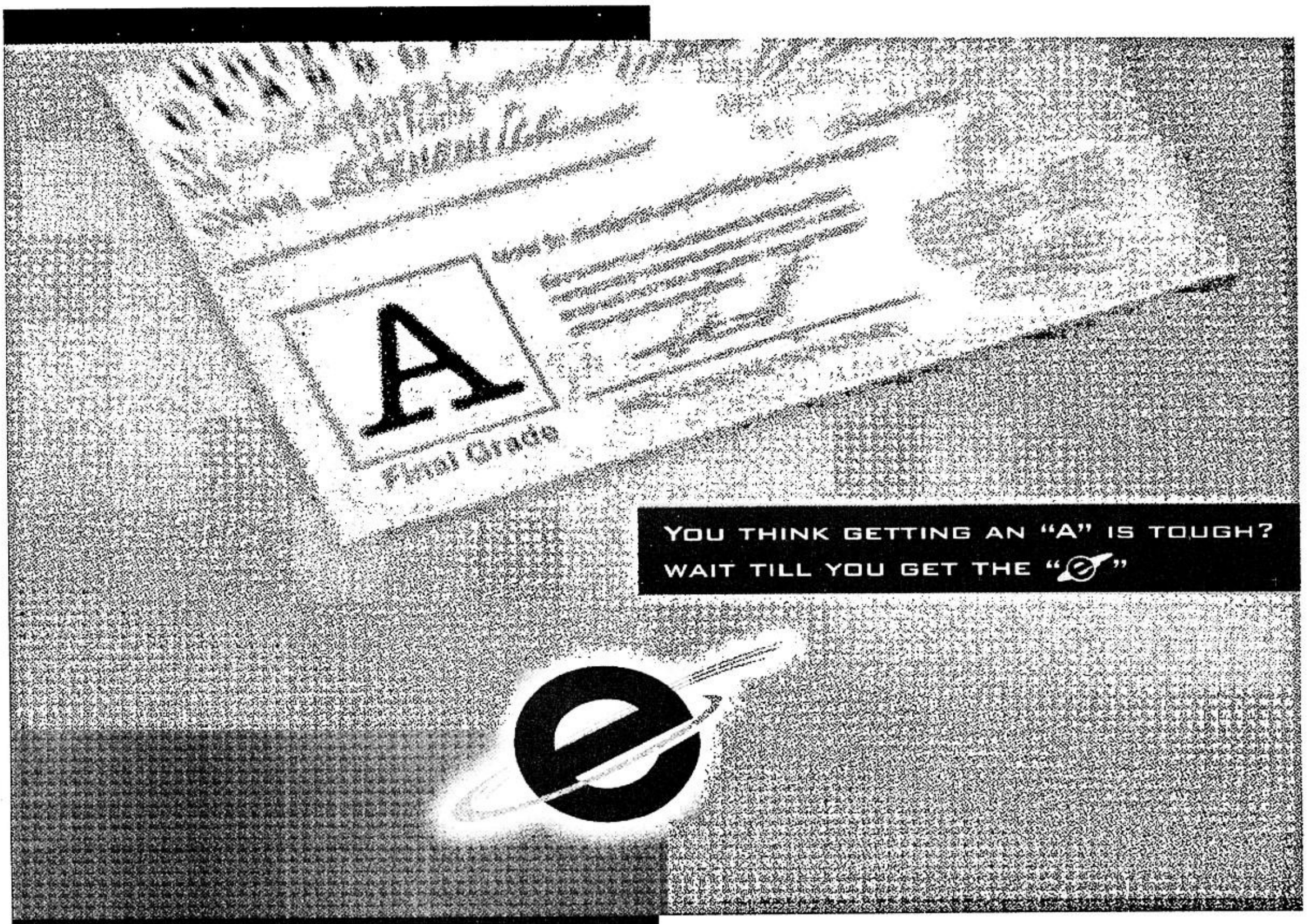

REMEMBER WHAT YOU HAD TO GO THROUGH TO GET AN "A"? WELL, GETTING THE "e" IS LIKE THAT. ONLY TOUGHER.

The eTelecare challenge is not easy. But once you have earned the mark, you are on your way to a great career with excellent growth opportunities. Its comprehensive training and mentoring programs allow you to reach your full potential in a fun and supportive work atmosphere. And the compensation and benefits package is unrivalled in the industry.

Best of all, you get to work with the industry's best. This experience is simply incomparable.

Perhaps it's the training or team culture or the knowledge that you work for the world's most awarded call center. But whatever it is, you'll get that feeling, you'll get that high when you have earned the e mark.

Industry-leading Employee Satisfaction Rating
Best in Class in People & Career Development
with over 500 leaders & officers developed
Leader and Innovator in Compensation & Benefits
Truly a Great Place to Work

If you have what it takes to be part of our world class team, we welcome you to our Manila and Cebu hubs.

The challenge is open to all:

Technical Support Representatives
Customer Service Associates
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Team Leaders

We also extend the challenge to Specialists and Managers for:

Operations
IT
Finance
Corporate Human Resource
Corporate Foundation Training
Organizational Development
Procurement and Logistics
Corporate Security

We offer a relocation package to those willing to be re-assigned from Manila to Cebu and vice-versa.

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  Manila: (02) 580-6530
  Cebu: (032) 415-8124
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  Eastwood Office: 20/F CyberOne Building
  Eastwood City, Bagumbayan, Quezon City
  Cebu Office: U-308 Keppel Building
  Samar Loop, Cebu City
- E-mail your resume to —
  Manila: recruiting@etelecare.com
  Cebu: ceburecruiting@etelecare.com
  or www.etelecare.com
- Join our Job Fair —
  Oct. 27-29: Robinson's Place, Manila
  10am-9pm

GREAT JOBS FOR A GREAT TEAM!
JOIN THE RAMCER BATTERY GROUP!

Q.A. AUDITORS
- Male/Female, 22-27 years old; Graduates of B.S. ME, EE, ChE or IE.
- Experience not required but knowledge and exposure on ISO systems, quality inspections, SPC, dimensional measurements, etc. is a definite advantage.
- Will conduct process and product audits, perform process and equipment validations and certifications, assist in setting-up OPCR systems, SPC, and quality control points.
- Willing to be assigned in Sta. Maria, Bulacan.

1. PRODUCT ENGINEERS
2. PRODUCT DESIGN ENGINEERS
3. DRAFTSMEN
- Male, 21-35 years old; Graduates of Mechanical Engineering.
- Experience not required but must possess potentials for the job. Must have exposure on AutoCAD, design and 3D modeling.
- With good communication and leadership skills.
- Willing to be based in Bulacan.

1. ENVIRONMENTAL FACILITIES ENGINEER
2. ENVIRONMENTAL CHEMIST
- Male, 21-30 years old; Graduate of either Mechanical or Chemical Engineering/Chemistry.
- With experience in Wastewater Treatment Plant Operations and Pollution Control.
- Flexible, fast learner and hands-on engineer.
- For Bulacan assignment.

CAD DESIGNERS
- Male, 22-28 years old; graduate of B.S. Mechanical Engineering (licensed).
- Well-verse in AUTOCADD and other equivalent design software.

CNC SPECIALISTS/OPERATORS
- Male, 19-28 years old; graduate of Technical course.
- With basic knowledge/training in CNC Milling Operations.

MACHINE ASSEMBLERS
- Male, 25-35 years old; graduate of Technical course.
- Must be experienced in machine wiring.

LOGISTICS SUPERVISOR
- Male/Female; Graduate of any Engineering course.
- Must have at least 3 years related work experience as a Logistics or Production Planning Supervisor in a manufacturing environment.
- With good scholastic records, leadership and communication skills.
- Willing to be based in Marilao, Bulacan.

COST ACCOUNTANT /ACCOUNTANT (CPA)
- Male/Female, 23-35 years old; must be a Certified Public Accountant (CPA).
- Must have at least 1 year hands-on experience as Accountant/Accounting Assistant, preferably with a background on Cost Accounting.
- With good scholastic records and presentation skills.

S.A.P. CONSULTANT TRAINEES
- Male/Female, 21-30 years old; Graduate of any four-year course (Engineering, Accountancy, etc.). Fresh graduates are welcome to apply. Those with I.T. experience have a definite advantage.
- Must be interested to build a career on S.A.P. Consultancy.
- With excellent scholastic records and communication skills.
- Flexible and with good leadership ability.

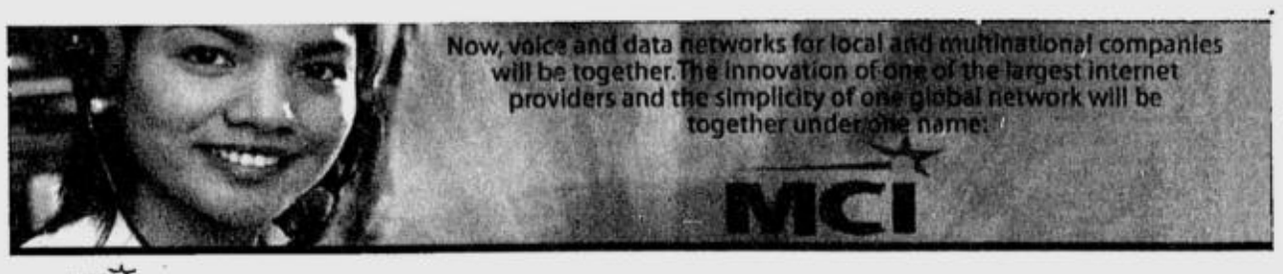
SEASONED O.D. CONSULTANT/RETAINER
- Male/Female, 40-55 years old; with Masteral education preferably on HRM or MIR.
- Must have at least 10 years OD-related experience and training.
- With good coordination and communication skills.

WE OFFER ATTRACTIVE COMPENSATION & BENEFITS PACKAGE.

THESE ARE ALL URGENT REQUIREMENTS. ALL QUALIFIED APPLICANTS ARE REQUESTED TO APPLY PERSONALLY WITH THEIR RESUME, 2x2 PICTURE AND T.O.R. TO:

CORPORATE RECRUITMENT SECTION (BATTERY GROUP)
80-82 Roces Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
E-mail Address: ebmuscat@motolite.com

Previous applicants need not apply.



MCI is one of the largest long distance companies for US residential customers. We are one of the fastest-growing digital communications companies in Asia Pacific. We have become known for our premier offer of voice, data and internet communications services. We provide world-class service and a technology-oriented workforce that delivers a quality of service that is second to none. We are more than 130 data centers in 22 countries spanning five continents. For our expansion in the Philippines, we are looking to fill the following positions.

ASSISTANT CALL CENTER MANAGER

PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES:
Assist the Call Center Manager in overseeing call center operations, applying industry experience and expertise to meet company objectives. Partner successfully with the company and third-party personnel, as well as with other international Operator Network Centers. Provide clear and concise direction at all times to our company and third-party personnel to achieve the highest level of "best-in-class" customer service possible for our customers.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:
Support in designing, implementing, assigning and managing projects in an effort to accomplish center and system goals. Work effectively with a myriad of teams and personnel within and outside of the organization to ensure productivity and efficiency on primary objectives. Provide necessary tools and support to enable them to accomplish their goals. Report and make recommendations to resolve roadblocks. Ensure a positive work environment, managing with integrity, empowering those around you and sharing recognition.

JOB REQUIREMENTS:
- 5 or more years experience in call center environment
- Bachelor's degree
- 5 -7 years supervisory experience
- Strong management, administrative and interpersonal skills
- Extensive background in project management and implementation
- Strong proficiency with operations metrics
- Proven ability to manage projects to stakeholder expectations and satisfaction
- Demonstrated strong track record in driving continuous improvement in customer satisfaction
- Working knowledge of customer satisfaction tools and process
- Cooperation and sound judgement
- Effective cognitive skills
- Solid knowledge and proficiency in Microsoft Excel, Word and PowerPoint; MS Projects and OpStats Sytems

TRAFFIC/SCHEDULING MANAGER

He/she will ensure that contractual standards are met and that all products are properly staffed in an efficient manner. He/she will plan for and participate in starting up of new products and/or call volume. He/she will have to develop and support both the traffic and scheduling Analysts.

JOB REQUIREMENTS:
- Graduate of BA Business Management or related field
- More than 2 years of previous managerial experience an advantage
- High-level PC skills to include Excel, Word, & PowerPoint
- Excellent analytical abilities
- Exceptional follow-up and time management skills
- Proficiency in conversational English
- Knowledgeable in Automatic Call Distributors, TCS Scheduling software and Agent Administrator or Operator Statistics Systems
- Must possess a sense of urgency and extreme flexibility
- Excellent communication skills at all levels, including center and national & international contacts
- Flexibility in work schedule
- Demonstrated ability to maintain high ethical standards
- Detail oriented

Interested applicants may send their resume with recent 2 x 2 photo to:
MCI — HR OFFICE
17th Fl. BPI Buendia Center Bldg. Sen Gil Puyat Ave, Makati City or email us at MCP-HR@mci.com
Please indicate on the subject line the position you are applying for. Previous applicants need not apply.

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APPLY NOW!!!
START IMMEDIATELY!!!

YOU MUST BE:
College graduate, at least 21 years old and above, pleasing personality, not presently employed, good moral character, with or without experience, and willing to start immediately.

Apply at: Suite 808, 8th floor,
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Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City
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THEN YOU DESERVE:
- ✔ A starting pay of Above Average income
- ✔ Company sponsored training
- ✔ Career development and growth with our automatic promotion system
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Come in PROPER BUSINESS ATTIRE AND PLEASE BRING TWO (2) PASSPORT-SIZED PICTURES, (complete resumé and valid ID on Monday – Wednesday (October 25, 26 and 27) from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

QUALITY APPLIANCE GROUP
CDO ILI VAL BUT PAG OZA SUR DIP DGT OSM TAG CAR AGO PAL CEB IPI ORM MAR TAC TAY JRB SIN

Is in need of applicants for the position of

OPERATIONS MANAGER

QUALIFICATIONS:
- Male, between 30-45 years old
- A graduate of any four-year course, preferably business-related
- With managerial experience in finance industry
- With good communication skills
- With good leadership skills; must be assertive
- Can speak Cebuano; willing to travel to Vis-Min places
- With Driver's License

Interested applicants must send their Curriculum Vitaé or Resumé and Cover Letter to:

The Human Resource Officer
Quality Appliance Group of Companies
J.R. Borja Street, Cagayan de Oro City, 9000
Telefax No. (08822) 724058
or E-mail to: quality_appliance@yahoo.com

Resco Systems Phil., Inc.
A Japanese based company in need of
PROGRAMMERS / DEVELOPERS
Skills Required: VB.NET or VB6, Access2000
Knowledge in other language and DB is an advantage
Working experience: At least 2 years
Medical Plaza Makati Bldg. 1712 Amorsolo St.,
Cor. Dela Rosa St., Makati City. Tel. #8132941(Oscar)

MSA conducts effective
315 Katipunan Ave., Loyola Heights Q.C.
925-7544 929-9145 929-9159
101 Esteban -dela Rosa Legaspi Village Makati
893-3326 815-1307 813-0943

IELTS, TSE, TOEFL
Civil Service Review

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SALES REP
FOR A START-UP COSMECEUTICAL COMPANY

MUST BE
- A COLLEGE GRADUATE
- FLUENT IN ENGLISH
- PRESENTABLE, W/ OUTGOING PERSONALITY
- MUST HAVE GOOD PEOPLE SKILLS
- AT LEAST ONE YEAR SALES EXPERIENCE
- MOTIVATED

SEND YOUR RESUMES W/ PHOTO, TOGETHER WITH CONTACT INFORMATION i.e CELLPHONE #, OR LANDLINE, ON OR BEFORE NOVEMBER 7, 2004 TO:

MS. ANNE ACUÑA
c/o PROSTAR MARKETING CORP
36TH FLOOR, SUMMIT ONE OFFICE TOWER
530 SHAW BOULEVARD MANDALUYONG CITY
TEL 534 3672

BUS COMPANY EXPANSION
MAINTENANCE MANAGER
at least 5 yrs experience
MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR
at least 2 yrs. experience
Male/ME graduate or experienced bus mechanic
Send bio-data w/ ID picture & contact no. to:
Box No. KA-024-04 VL
Philippine Daily Inquirer
G/F, Trinity Bldg.
#636 TM Kalaw St.
Ermita, Manila

For its continuous expansion program, REGENT TRAVEL CORPORATION, a well respected name in the travel industry is in need of the following for immediate employment:

TOURS MANAGER
- Male/female
- With extensive background in inbound / outbound tours operation of a travel agency
- At least 30 years old but not more than 40
- Excellent communication, planning skills
- Salary negotiable

TOURS ASSISTANT
- Male/Female
- Between 23 to 30 years of age
- College graduate
- With travel related work experience
- Preferably with ticketing work experience
- Good oral and written communications skills
- Computer literate

ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT / BSP OFFICER
- Male/Female
- Between 23 to 30 years of age
- At least 2 years relevant work experience
- Preferably with BSP Airlines reporting and remitting experience
- Computer literate, knowledge of Abacus S-BOSS an advantage

RESERVATIONS & TICKETING OFFICER
- Male or female, not over 35 years old
- Work experience in reservations and ticketing for 2 years
- Preferably with background in marine traffic ticketing
- With demonstrated knowledge of Abacus and/or Amadeus CRS

Interested applicants may send their Resumé with recent 2x2 picture to:

REGENT TRAVEL CORPORATION
Regent Bldg., 1415 Gen. Luna Street
Ermita, Manila
Attn: The Personnel Officer or
e-mail to regent@pldtdsl.net

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
_____
CONTACT NO. _____
SIGNATURE _____

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Promo Period: Sept. 27- Dec. 14, 2004
Deadline of Entries:
Monthly Draws: October 17 and Nov. 17, 2004
Grand Draw: Dec. 14, 2004
Draw Dates:
Monthly Draw: October 22 and Nov. 22, 2004
Grand Draw: Dec. 21, 2004

See posters and print ads for details.
Per DTI Permit No. 2147, series of 2004

ISO-certified Multi-national Company engage in manufacturing various housing fixtures, committed to quality service and customer satisfaction. Awarded as Top Sectoral Export Performance Citation for Furniture Category are in need of the following personnel.

Assistant Supervisor

- Male/Female at least 21-30 years old
- Graduate of Architecture or any Engineering course
- With at least 6 months of supervisory work experience
- Knowledge in machine operation for wooden products
- Proficient in windows based programs
- Good inter-personal relationship
- Aggressive, analytical and assertive

Company Nurse

- Female between 21-27 years old
- Graduate of BS Nursing
- Experienced in Industrial setting is an advantage
- People oriented and can work on extended hours

Electricians

(urgent hiring)

- At least High School Vocational College Level
- Male must be 21-35 years old
- Experience in Driving Truck Head
- With experience in Building Control Wiring
- Good Moral Character

Truck Head Driver

(urgent hiring)

- Male at least 30 up to 40 years of age
- High School or Vocational Course (related in auto mechanic)
- Experience in Driving Truck Head
- Skills in Heavy Equipment Mechanic
- With Professional Driver's License (R Code-6 & 3, 2, 1)

Forklift Operator

(urgent hiring)

- At least Vocational Course Graduates
- Male between 20-35 years old
- With 6 months experience in forklift operation
- With knowledge in forklift repair and maintenance
- With Professional Driver's License
- Good moral character

Forklift Mechanic

(urgent hiring)

- Male between 20-35 years old
- Must be an Auto-Diesel Mechanic graduate
- With experience in motor pool is an advantage
- With Professional Driver's License
- Good moral character
- Fresh graduates are welcome to apply

ANGLO JAPANESE AMERICAN REGISTRARS AJA

SCAD Services(S) Pte., Ltd.
PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY
BLOCK 23 PHASE 1V ROSARIO, CAVITE

You can mail or hand carry your comprehensive resumé with 2x2 picture and transcript of records at the above address.
For inquiries, call telephone no. (046) 437-0849 to 51. Look for Ms. May Salvador & Ms. Ronalyn Estorninos or you can e-mail your resumé at hrd_scad@pacific.net.ph

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DKT Philippines, Inc., a non-government, non-profit and non-stock organization involved in the sales and distribution of contraceptive products is in need of the following individuals for:

Administrative Assistant

The administrative assistant will be tasked to assist in the management of daily departmental operations.

Job Requirements:

- Bachelor's degree
- Knowledge of administrative system and operations.
- Effective oral and written communication skills.
- Proficient in computer programs:
- Ability to multi-task and cope with pressure.
- Extremely organized and works with full attention to details.

Franchise Operations Manager

The Franchise Operations Manager will be responsible for the development, operation, and expansion of a franchise undertaking in the Philippines. He/She will manage this effort within a department consisting of professionals engaged in collaborative efforts with government units, industrial entities, health service providers, and non-governmental organizations.

Job Requirements:

The successful candidate will be a results-oriented individual with proven entrepreneurial, management, and leadership skills. He/She will be a strategic thinker, a change agent, and a team player with a hands-on approach to work that will contribute to high levels of achievement within the organization. He/She must have exceptional proven skills in written and oral communications, public speaking and presentations, problem solving and analysis, and decision-making.

The candidate must meet the following minimum requirements:

- College Degree in Business Management or equivalent. A Master's Degree is an added advantage.
- Experience in franchise operation is a must.
- A track record of high achievement.
- Highly organized, systematic, and hands-on work ethic.
- Proficient in computer programs.

Applicants can look forward to an industry competitive package. Interested applicants may send their comprehensive resume to:

Human Resources Department
DKT Philippines, Inc.
Suite 801, The Linden Suites
37 San Miguel Avenue, Otigas Pasig City
or
E-mail: hrd@frenzy.com.ph

ADB **Fighting Poverty in Asia and the Pacific**
Asian Development Bank's overarching goal is to reduce poverty and improve the quality of life of people in the Asian & Pacific region.

Housing Counselor (Consultant Position)

Description of Responsibilities

The ADB Housing Counselor will provide assistance to ADB expatriate staff in obtaining suitable accommodation and negotiate cost-effective leases. The services include:

- Providing comprehensive briefings on the housing realities of renting properties and advising ADB expatriate staff and candidates on the housing market in Metro Manila;
- Managing and updating a centralized housing information computer database;
- Monitoring and coordinating the ongoing servicing activities of ADB's accredited housing brokers and evaluating their overall performance;
- Publishing regular Metro Manila residential rental property market overviews; and
- Updating housing-related ADB publications.

Selection Criteria

Candidates must:

- possess a recognized university degree or equivalent qualification;
- have proven expertise in dealing with the housing market for expatriates in Metro Manila;
- be based in Metro Manila and fully aware of the housing services and level of real-estate expertise available in Metro Manila;
- have experience in providing guidance on housing matters to professionals of diverse nationalities and cultural backgrounds;
- possess excellent interpersonal, solid analytical, strong writing/oral English communication skills; and
- demonstrate full commitment to the highest standards of quality of service and integrity.

This is a part-time consulting position (minimum of 3 days a week working in ADB Headquarters). Candidates must be nationals of an ADB member country.

Apply electronically, quoting **Housing Counselor** on subject line, to e-mail address: CS-jobs@adb.org by **5 November 2004.**

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

Human Resources Division
Asian Development Bank
P.O. Box 789, 0980 Manila, Philippines
http://www.adb.org

CARP Beverages Distributors
A Rizal-based Pepsi-Cola Partner

Booking Salesmen (Male)

- 24 - 38 years old
- College Graduate
- Professional Driver's License

With Basic Pay + Generous Commission

Please fax your resumé/bio-data to
660-9240 (office hours only)

BODY NEEDS & BASICS, INC.

is currently looking for the following:

Sales Representative – male or female; not older than 35 yrs. old, college graduate, with sales work experience in a consumer-based food company; familiar with the whole GMA area; familiar with store chains, convenience stores and major supermarkets.

Sales Coordinators – male or female; not older than 35 yrs. old; college level; with consumer sales work experience; familiar with areas around Metro Manila, willing to do extensive field work.

Internal Auditor – preferably male; Accounting graduate; 25-35 yrs. old; with at least 5 years of extensive auditing / accounting work experience.

Interested applicants may submit their resumé (include contact number) with recent 2x2 colored photo, & employment certificates to:

The HRD Officer
Body Needs & Basics, Inc.
5/F Jade Centre Condominium
105 Shaw Boulevard, Pasig City

Qualified applicants will be contacted for a scheduled interview.

*****GRAND JOB FAIR*****

108 GRADUATES, Licensed or Non-licensed

NURSING, PHARMACY, DENTISTRY, MED-TECH, PT, OT, RT, PHILOSOPHY, PSYCHOLOGY, BIOLOGY, MASSCOM, MANAGEMENT, ENGINEERING, ACCOUNTING, MARKETING, POL. SCI., HRM, COMP. SCI., EDUCATION, ETC.

Male / Female, 20-40 years of age and willing to be assigned in any available position.

Interested parties may apply in person.
Please bring your resumé and any credentials. Hiring will be from OCTOBER 25, to 30, 2004, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

You can also email your resumé to hrdeptplatinum@yahoo.com

APPLY AT: SUITE 808, WEST TOWER TEKTITE
PHIL STOCK EXCHANGE CENTER
EXCHANGE ROAD, ORTIGAS, PASIG CITY
Look for MR. NOEL ISIDRO
"Clip this ad to your resumé"
FIRST COME FIRST SERVE BASIS

We are a growing glass processing company that has a job opportunity for the following position:

One (1) Marketing Assistant

The candidate must possess the following qualifications:

- Male or female not more than 26 years old
- Graduate of Marketing
- 2 years experience along the lines of market planning and implementation
- Very good command of spoken and written English
- Analytical
- People oriented
- Pleasing personality and ability to work under pressure

Interested candidates should send their resumés with pictures via email to: alndv@yahoo.com

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NOW HIRING
MEDICAL TRANSCRIPTIONISTS

- with 2 yrs. MT experience
- preferably residing in San Juan, Mandaluyong or Pasig

Send application to:

ALLEGIA SCRIPTWORKS
13 San Mateo cor. San Manuel
Bo. Kapitolyo, Pasig City
Attn: Nedinia P. Tejada
or email: nazgul@tri-isys.com

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Ladder of growth

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

"IMMERSION"—for us a conscious effort to expose ourselves to life's realities—is part and parcel of our work in Blue Collar, a value-and-attitude formation magazine whose primary target audience are young workers, students and technical trainees. Once a month, we visit an institution (orphanage, prison, home for disabled, etc.) or a depressed area (Smoky Mountain, etc.) and interact with the people there. After the visit, we share impressions and reflect upon these. It's a sobering exercise that helps us see and do our work in the proper perspective.

One day, while sharing reflections after a visit to the National Mental Hospital, one of us said she was so struck by what she had seen that all she could say was "Thank God I'm not like them!" Asked to elaborate on that, she added "Well, I have my head in the right place ... I'm thankful for my gifts and feel lucky I have work that uses my gifts." "*Ganon*?" I asked in disbelief, instantly remembering the Pharisee in today's Gospel. So, in order to lead her to the next level, I gave her a spanking of sorts: "Write down your observations from our trip, and make a proposal on how to improve conditions at the mental hospital. To help you accomplish that, imagine that tomorrow, your mother will become one of the patients there."

Sometimes our work can give us a false sense of superiority, especially when we are aware that we do it with some lofty purpose in mind. When it does, we should be thankful if Life gives us a spanking, so to speak—when we meet opposition, are put down, or are given additional burden. It takes effort to climb the ladder of growth. (*E-mail the author at* teresa_de_manila@yahoo.com)

REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

Gospel: Luke 18:9-14

The Pharisee ... spoke this prayer to himself, "O God, I thank you that am not like the rest of humanity—greedy, dishonest, adulterous—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week, and I pay tithes on my whole income."

Growth in failures

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD

QUITE often, we hear news or read about some people working in government, in church, or in other public office, criminally charged with anomalies and immoralities. Some of those accused would voluntarily step down from their jobs, while others fight tooth and nail to extricate themselves from the charges against them. Whichever they do, they would face the scrutiny of public opinion and judgment, which are more often condemning than forgiving. Most people would consider these "public sinners" as damned forever and as worthless members of society who no longer have the right to exist in this world.

In a simple workplace, where there is no media and public opinion, the same condemning attitudes towards known erring workers prevail. Like the Pharisee in today's Gospel, some workers would condemn their fellow workers, who are caught cheating on their jobs, or are reportedly doing immoral acts, and would readily recommend them to be dismissed from the job. Like the Pharisee, some would thank the Lord, not because they are without fault—no one is perfect in this world—but because they are not yet caught. Everyone knows his failures at work even if only he and God alone know them.

If everyone at work looks at others with a watchful eye of a police and not that of a beloved friend or brother, the workplace becomes unbearable. But, when everyone tries to love, understand and forgive one another, the workplace becomes not only efficient, but also a place of personal growth and genuine encounter with the merciful God. (*E-mail the author at* mfvg@skyinet.net)

'How important is my boss in my career success?'

From page 8★★

Find out if he possesses the qualities you are looking for in a boss. Is he friendly or a "slave-driver"? Ask him about his management style. Does he give directions and leave you to do the task? Does he coach his people? Does he give feedback about people's performance? Is he concerned about employees' development? What are his bases for hiring people, promoting people, firing people?

Characteristics of good boss

Outside of the interview, you may ask around about your prospective bosses to determine his integrity, reputation and track record. Of course, you want to be associated with a successful person, not with somebody who is falling apart and falling down the career ladder. Of course, you want a boss who is a rising star or a solid performer. A boss' work habits, enthusiasm and performance can rub off his subordinates. Be sure that you will like whatever traits you might "inherit" from your boss.

Here are some characteristics of good bosses:

1. **High degree of integrity.** Great bosses know how to keep their promises. When they promise to do something, they do it. They live the qualities of a person with integrity—not just talk about them.

2. **People-orientation.** Great bosses are interested in their employees—as people and as employees. They are considerate and caring and will try to balance achieving their goals and the convenience of the people working for them.

3. **Interest in people.** Great bosses show interest in employees' personal and family life. This makes them understand how employees live, feel, think—both at work and at home—and how to optimize their performance.

4. **Clear vision.** Great bosses know the kind of future they want for themselves and their people. They are able to clearly share their vision and get people to work together to achieve that vision—usually a brighter future for all.

5. **Honesty and openness.** Great bosses are honest, transparent and open with their employees in matters that concern them. They give accurate and timely information that employees need in order to do their jobs well.

6. **Concern for people development.** Great bosses hire people not just for the present work but also for future jobs that they can get promoted to. They look at people's potential, aside from performance, and help them develop themselves.

7. **Results-orientation.** Great bosses look for results and compensate results—perhaps, differently and discriminately. A good boss can appreciate a great job and is willing to compensate for it. He is just and fair and gives back more rewards to those who contribute more.

When you work for a great boss, you will feel it. You are more relaxed, productive and valuable as a person and as an employee. You won't drag your feet going to the office, or hide when you see your boss coming. Every encounter with him is a productive and mutually satisfying meeting that results in something positive for you and for the organization.

Can you change your boss now? Yes, but first change yourself. Make yourself more marketable, and choose the bosses you want to work with. When you know you can give the best, you can also demand the best.

Quote of the week

"It does not pay to jeopardize your relationship with your boss. When you look at your organization chart and you see your boss' box above yours, it means that it will be to your advantage to respect his authority. Make him your ally and you will go a long way in your job and career. Take care of your boss now. The next could be worse." ("How to Keep Your Job," Ernie Cecilia, FPM, 2000.)

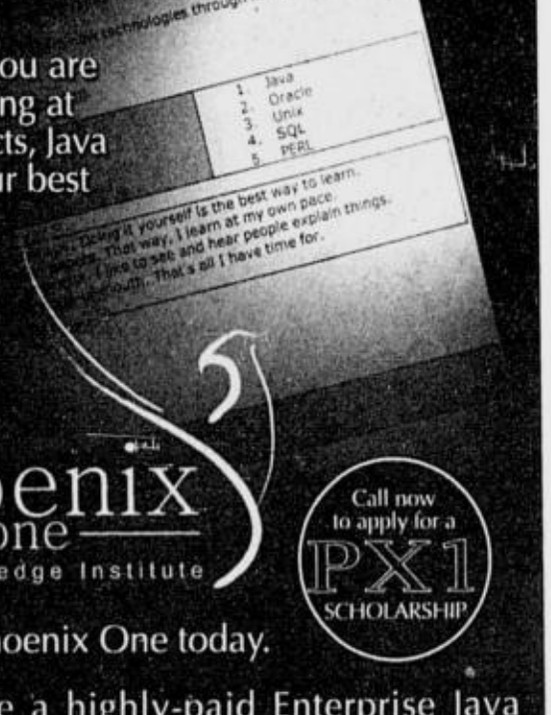
(*Mr. Cecilia is the president and CEO of EC Business Solutions and Career Center, a fast-growing human resource consulting firm. He was president of the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines or PMAP in 1999. His career books are available at popular bookstores. Send feedback to* ec4u@edsa mail.com.ph)

The September 2004 DICE Report says it all...

Java & Oracle

are the top skills searched for by employers the most.

So if you are thinking of transitioning into IT, or if you are already in IT and are looking at enhancing your job prospects, Java and Oracle are clearly your best options.



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ORTIGAS : 689-1189
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Lourdes St. cor. Pearl Drive
Ortigas Center, Pasig City

ALABANG : 775-7001
2/F Doña Marta Building
Alabang-Zapote Road
Alabang, Muntinlupa City

A Small Island Resort
is in need of:

DIESEL MECHANIC/ ENGINEER

Qualifications:

- Multi-skilled mechanic
- Competent on all forms of diesel and petrol engines, especially with boat engines
- Has worked with CAT engines
- Minimum of 5 years experience
- Fluent in English
- Articulate

Please email resumé to
bbr@connect.com.fj

For more information call:
(02) 646-8319

AFS Intercultural Programs Philippines

We are a member of AFS Intercultural Programs, Inc., the oldest and most prestigious international organization engaged in multicultural exchanges among 80 countries. We have an immediate opening for:

1 PROGRAM COORDINATOR

who will be responsible for implementing our hosting and sending programs. The job involves close coordination with counterpart staff at AFS partner offices around the world, working with government agencies and schools, extensive interactions with Filipino and foreign students, AFS returnees and volunteers, and local and international travels.

We are looking for a person who:

- Speaks and writes well in English.
- Works well with other people - both young and old.
- Is proficient in M.S. Word, Excel and Powerpoint. (Knowledge of Adobe Photoshop and PageMaker is an advantage).
- Works with minimal supervision, is resourceful and hard working.
- Has a positive outlook in life.
- Has a college degree preferably in business, psychology or mass communication.

The deadline for submission of application is on November 2, 2004. Please send your application letter, resumé and 1 passport size picture electronically to info@arfpi.org or by courier to: AFS Returnees Foundation Phil., Inc., 2/F U.P. I.S.S.I. Bldg., Jacinto St., Diliman, Quezon city 1101. Tel. No. 928-3432

IMMEDIATE HIRING FOR EXPORT COMPANY

ARTISTS – Female, Fine Arts graduate, creative, very good in free-hand drawing, preferably with experience in girls/children's dresses

NEW GRADUATES ARE ALSO WELCOME

Pls. Call 8071819 / 8071769 or come with T/R & Resumé to CPII Compound Km. 21 West Service Rd. Cupang, Muntinlupa City

ACCOUNTANT

- M/F not more than 27 years old
- Grad. of BS Accounting
- w/ 2 years experience in bookkeeping, cost/ general acctg.
- Analytical and results oriented

Send your resumé:
I.O.S. Marketing Corporation
647 P. Paterno St., Quiapo, Manila

ACCOUNTANT

A US organization has an immediate opening for an accountant. He/She will be responsible for a range of professional accounting duties in the processing, analyzing and reconciling accounting transactions.

Qualifications:

- Accounting/Banking & Finance Graduate
- Minimum 1-2 years work experience
- Excellent command of both written and spoken English
- Excellent communication skills
- Can work with minimum supervision

Please e-mail application letter and resumé to ACCPH@AXAFINA.COM

MEGAMAN LIGHTING PHILS. INC.
An upcoming major player in the lighting industry invites qualified applicants to fill the following position in its expansion to address the growing needs of the market.

LIGHTING ENGINEERS (SALES & MARKETING)

- 25 to 30 years of age
- Male/female, with pleasing personality
- Excellent communication skills
- Graduate of Business/Engineering courses
- Extensive 2-3 years experience in the lighting industry, selling/marketing lamps, fixture designs
- Experience in the different distribution channels an advantage

LIGHTING DESIGNER

- 27 to 32 years of age
- Knowledgeable and experienced in Electrical Lighting designs and projects
- Graduate of Electrical Engineering from a reputable institution and duly licensed
- Male/Female with pleasing personality
- Fairly good communication skills

This is an urgent need by the company for its 2005 campaign. Interested and qualified applicants may personally submit or send their comprehensive Curriculum Vitae and/or Resumé with covered letter to:

Megaman Lighting Phils., Inc.
Unit 1601 East Tower, PSE Center
Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City

Or Email to gvidescallar@megamanphil.com

A Professional Theatre Company needs the following:

COMPANY MANAGER

College grad w/ managerial skills in admin / finance work; good in oral & written comm.; committed to work; interest in theater or arts is welcome

SALES EXECUTIVES

college grad with previous sales experience; pleasing personality; w/ good people skills; results oriented; honest; good in oral & written comm.

Send / e-mail your resumé to:
Tanghalang Pilipino
2/F PDC Bldg., CCP Complex,
Roxas Blvd., Pasay City
Tel. 832-3661; 832-1125 L 1620 or
tanghalanprod@yahoo.com

WE ARE PRESENTLY IN NEED OF AGGRESSIVE, HONEST AND HARDWORKING PERSONNEL WHO ARE WILLING TO BE TRAINED TO FILL IMMEDIATELY THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:

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SALES ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES
EVENT COORDINATOR

- Male/Female, 23 – 30 years old, Business course graduate, Pleasing personality, Fluent in oral & written communication, Handling Corporate Sales, Experience in hospitality industry is an advantage, Computer literate

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- Butcher helper – knowledgeable in butchering (seafood, meat, poultry)
- Hot kitchen helpers – experience in cooking
- Cold kitchen helper – knowledgeable in salads, cold cuts, sandwiches, dressings
- Stewards

AIRCON TECHNICIAN

- Male, 28 years old – above, Certificate in A/C and refrigeration course, college level is an advantage, Experience in maintenance, installation and repair of A/C system and kitchen equipment, Experience in hospitality industry

Applicants may send their resumé and transcript of record with photo as follows:

E-mail: hrd@clubmalarayat.com
Fax #: 043 7567933 – ATTENTION: HRD
Airmail: HRD - Mount Malarayat Golf and Country Club, Inc., Barangay Dagatan, Lipa City, Batangas

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☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012 Fax 892557B
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☎ 9129008-11 Fax 9129011
SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6872354 ☎ 6872366 Fax 6350220
G/F Trinity Bldg., 636 T.M. Kalaw St., Manila
☎ 5273342 ☎ 5280183 ☎ 5276357 Fax 5280213
Alabang, Muntinlupa City
☎ 8424503 ☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465

IPAMS / *HEALTHSTAR INTERNATIONAL, INC.* - U.S.A. DIRECT EMPLOYMENT

PHYSICAL THERAPISTS FOR CHRISTUS Spohn Health System

Over 100 years ago, when Dr. Arthur E. Spohn began caring for Corpus Christi's 7,000 residents, he saw patients in their homes and in a makeshift operating room in the Incarnate Word Convent. There was no hospital of any kind.

After eight years of fund raising, the two-story Spohn Sanitarium was erected on North Beach, just 100 yards from the bay. At Dr. Spohn's request, Mother Madelaine Chollet, of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word of San Antonio, agreed to staff and run the Sanitarium, provided the building would always be dedicated to health care.

CHRISTUS Spohn Health System, a part of CHRISTUS Health, now consists of six hospitals and 5 clinics. We are one of **Texas** region's largest private employers with 4,500 dedicated employees, more than 700 physicians and more than 500 community volunteers. We continue to adapt and change to meet the needs of the people we serve.

CHRISTUS Spohn Physical Therapy & Rehabilitation is a faith-based organization focused on improving the health and well-being of all individuals. We strive to educate all our clients on improving their quality of life and provide specialized rehabilitative care for those in need.

In keeping with CHRISTUS Spohn's mission, we provide high-quality, cost-effective care. As much as possible, our goal is to help patients recover in their own independence and ability. Our Therapists and associates are specially trained in treating a wide variety of diagnoses.

At CHRISTUS Spohn Physical Therapy & Rehabilitation, ***we offer our Therapists and associates a stimulating work environment, a family atmosphere, learning opportunities, competitive salaries and generous benefits.***

We are always looking for skilled people who share our core values of dignity, integrity, excellence, compassion, and stewardship

Come and meet us on the following final interview dates:
MANILA - IPAMS Office DECEMBER 2nd & 3rd

Aspiring Physical Therapists (PTs) must have the following:

- ***U.S. TEXAS RPT License* or deemed eligibile for *U.S. TEXAS NPTE***
- ***ICHP VisaScreen* or *CCEC Certified by FCCPT*, or at least have passed *TOEFL* - 580 (paper based) or 237 (computer based), *TWE* - 5.0, and *TSE* - 55**

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE WILL BE PROVIDED TO COVER VISA PROCESSING FEES TO INCLUDE AIRFARE AND ONE MONTH HOUSING IN THE U.S.A.

HealthStar International Inc., from *Houston, Texas* will be in town on December 2nd to December 3rd, 2004 identifying PTs for its client, *Christus Spohn Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation based in Corpus Christi, Texas.* There will be a final selection with direct hire contract execution.

To take advantage of this opportunity, candidates must apply ASAP by submitting comprehensive resume, school records (diploma, transcript of records), board rating, training certificates, employment credentials, plus two (2) passport photographs to:

IPAMS
since 1972
Registration No. 9615700
POEA-400-LB-020404-AOE
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Minimum High School graduates with at least three (3) years experience preferably gained in prominent supermarkets or malls. Good communication skills in English. Age between 21-40 years old. Must possess valid passport and authenticated school certificates prior to the final interview.

Precision Drilling Corporation
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Extensive experience in oil, gas or petrochemical industry with minimum three (3) years experience in the oil rig / drilling company.

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KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA
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Personally submit your resume, copy of employment & school certificates, passport copy & 2 pcs. passport size photos to:
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Filipino Seafarers Family Expo and Forum 2004

The 2nd Philippine Exhibition and Conference on Job, Livelihood, Investment and Business Opportunities for the Seafarers and their Families

-- back-to-back with --

Pamilyang OFWs-SMEs Housing and Home Essentials Trade Fair 2004

The 1st Philippine Exhibition on Real Estate Projects and Home Necessities for the OFW and SME Families

12-14 November 2004 * 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Megatrade Hall 1, 5th Floor, Building B, SM Megamall

INQUIRER and Pamilyang OFW-SME Network Foundation, Inc.

Greetings from the Inquirer Classifieds and Pamilyang OFW-SME Network Foundation!

The Philippine Daily Inquirer and POFW-SMENFI are working together to come out with a very special supplement that will feature products and services for the OFW (including seafarers) and SME families.

This special pull-out section of the Philippine Daily Inquirer is a tabloid-sized section (7 cols x 30 cm) and is dedicated to feature the

Filipino Seafarers Family Expo and Forum 2004 back-to-back with **Pamilyang OFWs-SMEs Housing and Home Essentials Trade Fair 2004 SUPPLEMENT**

This will definitely be the reference of choice.
The Supplement is scheduled for release on November 12, 2004 at the opening of the above-mentioned events. In line with this, we are providing you with the following special advertising rates:

FULL PAGE AD (23cm x 30cm)	= P 56,862.50
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Yes, we agree to place _____ page ad in the Supplement in the amount of P_____.
We also agree to submit the ad material in TIF, EPS or JPEG Format not later than _____
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For more information, call the Pamilyang OFW-SME Network Foundation, Inc. Secretariat at Tel. Nos. (632) 912-58-03 and (632) 437-16-60 with Fax No. (632) 437-16-59; 24-hour mobile 0916-7421768; and E-mail: gearcom@tri-isys.com

HR officer looks beyond appearances when hiring applicants

By JR Bustamante
Contributor

HR FOCUS

IT WOULD have been normal behavior for an HR officer to just brush off an applicant wearing jeans to an interview, especially when the position to be filled is for medical representatives who will represent the company, and possibly be promoted in the future to product manager. Abbott Recruitment Officer Teresita Bernardo explains: "It's definitely not allowed to apply in jeans in any interview because it projects a negative impression on the interviewer—that of being unprepared and disrespectful. But in one case, I had to make an exception because I could see that the applicant had potential. The managers refused to give him a second interview because of his sloppy looks, so I intervened. Upon probing, I found out he had the responsibility of taking care of his parents in the province, which financially didn't leave him much to set aside for his own clothes. Later on, he proved to be a good worker and a gem to the company."

This soft-hearted lady has emphasized the need for HR officers to be flexible in certain cases and not bank on first impressions alone for their recommendations. The fact remains that you cannot really tell much about a person in a very short time to make a fair judgment whether he is competent or not.

"The problem with the new generation of applicants is that they don't know what they want. They go to the interview unprepared, without researching about the company beforehand and without an idea of the positions available. That is a major turn off for us. We are looking for people who have the potential to be promoted and be one of the leaders of the company one day. We expect all applicants to start off as medical representatives to understand the company and its products better, and to be in a better position to manage future medical representatives," explains Bernardo.

For future med reps, she shares these tips on how to get hired and be successful at Abbott: know what you want, research about the company, be flexible, and develop a mature attitude.

The company

Abbott is among the world's largest and most successful corporations operating in more than 130 countries worldwide. This global and diversified company is dedicated to the discovery, development, manufacturing, and marketing of healthcare products and services.

Abbott Laboratories is often referred to as a pharmaceutical company. This description would have been true a century ago. But the Abbott Laboratories of today—and of the future—is a leader in technologies across the healthcare spectrum. Though still a pharmaceutical company, Abbott has expanded to become also a diagnostics company, a nutritional company, and a hospital products company.

When Dr. Wallace Abbott founded the company in 1888, his goal was simple: to improve the quality of medical care available to his customers. More than 100 years later, the company does exactly that—but in ways, and on a scale, much greater than Dr. Abbott could have ever imagined.

Building leadership and combining strengths in the areas of pharmaceuticals, nutritionals, hospital products and consumer healthcare have enabled Abbott provide total, integrated solutions across the healthcare spectrum for some of the world's most prevalent medical conditions.

True calling

Finding her true calling wasn't immediate for Bernardo. She graduated as a medical technologist to honor her father's wishes but along the way to a medical career, she was sidetracked by the challenge of sales. Her first job was within the medical sphere, as medical representative, which allowed her to apply her medical education to practical use. Time and personal fulfillment in helping people has led her to her present job in the human resources department where she plans to stay for a long time. Although she went through a variety of responsibilities, she remained loyal to the medical world.

"You must be sincere and possess an innate love for people to last in the HR business. You must also feel a sense of fulfillment in helping people." These are the traits that Bernardo insist should be present in every HR practitioner. Her genuine concern for people has motivated her to go beyond the boundaries of her job responsibilities like allotting every two months to visit employees relocated around the country. As much as possible, she wants to keep updates on Abbott's 400 employees and maintain regular interaction with them even though some are in remote places. She is proud when employees she recommended win awards and get promoted. And she can't help but cry with them when they open up their personal problems. Her role as counselor and mediator for management and staff has brought her to a more personal level with the employees.

BERNARDO RUDY ESPERAS

Looking for your dream job?

JOIN "My Trabaho," a public service program to help people at work and jobseekers find their dream jobs.

Send a letter describing yourself, your strengths and weaknesses, and why you deserve to be selected as a beneficiary of this program, together with a biodata and one 1X1 photo through postal mail to **"My Trabaho at Job Market,"** Philippine Daily Inquirer Bldg., Chino Roces Ave. corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City. Or e-mail to **peopleatwork @inquirer.com.ph**. You can also handcarry your letter and biodata to any of Inquirer's Classified Ads branch offices in Metro Manila.

On Dec. 22, the next batch (30 letters per batch) will be picked (by drawing at random the letters). These 30 letter senders will be invited to attend a two-day Career Planning Workshop for free to be conducted by Career Systems, Inc. From these 30 letter senders, 10 will be selected by career mentors to be given the following assistance: a) Weekly career coaching sessions good for two months by a trained and qualified career mentor; b) Two outfits suitable to the targeted job of the applicant; c) A makeover by a reputable grooming salon to prepare him or her for his or her first job interview; d) Free attendance in a two-day Resume Preparation/Interview Seminar; e) Cash of P5,000 to be used in going to interviews, making letters of application and resumés, photos and other expenses that will be incurred in their job hunt for two months. For more information, call (632) 897-8808 local 237.

How do you ask ...

From page 8★★

same as "never." Ask what needs to happen in the next six months for you to earn a raise. Get as many specifics as possible, then document each target as you achieve it. She'll have a hard time refusing next time.

Prepare yourself using the tips above and you'll be riding the path to a bigger paycheck. And for most of us, anyway, that's a heck of a lot better than getting flattened by the boss each time we ask for more money.

Here are the results from a recent workingwounded .com/ ABCnews.com online ballot: Which best describes your feelings about getting a raise at work?

—Raise, who needs one, 44.9 percent

—Wouldn't even raise the topic, 40.1 percent

—I raise it all the time, 14.9 percent

(Mr. Rosner is based in Seattle, Washington, USA. E-mail him at bob@workingwounded .com.)

Do you want to earn before Christmas?
Say, at least *P3,000up weekly*?

Then, join the us and be one of our

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- Part/Full Time; at least 18years old above
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Just clip/bring this ad and see us at:

Synergy Center
Room 302, Sunrise Condominium, Ortigas Avenue, Greenhills, San Juan (near Diamond Motors)

Orientation Schedule 11am, 1pm & 3pm, Mon. to Sat.
Please confirm your schedule to our Business Partners:
Andrew Corvera 0917-4582003 / Joan Bejuco 0927-9645771

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Responsible for the operation, maintenance and upkeep of all the audiovisual equipment and facilities. Detailed technical knowledge of a wide variety of audio visual equipment.

Qualifications:
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Administration
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A fast growing oil company is in need of

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- Male or female, 22-26 years old
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To promote pharmaceutical lines to key target MD's in gov't hospitals
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To handle over-all accounting function of the company
- Male/Female, CPA with at least three (3) years relevant experience in all aspects of accounting, computer literate, with the ability to work independently under pressure and good interpersonal skills
- Knowledgeable in operating any Accounting software is a must
- Matured disposition, responsible and highly flexible

We offer stimulating environment that promotes growth, teamwork and passion for work. These are immediate requirement & all interested applicants are requested to send their resumé with 2x2 picture and Transcript of Records w/ DIPLOMA at #34 Pilar Banzon St., Phase 1, BF Homes, Parañaque City. Tel. # 770-8141.

FIELD SALESMEN

We are a consumer goods company looking for highly-motivated sales people to cover areas in Metro Manila and Central Luzon. College degree is required; prior or current sales experience, e.g. detailmen/route salesmen, will be a big advantage. We offer competitive pay and meaningful performance incentives. A company-owned vehicle will be provided. Hence, a valid driver's license is required from applicants.

If interested, you may send your resumé with picture to **Fax No. 848-1179** or **email mikhail0268@yahoo.com**. Address to Marketing Manager, Ref: Field Salesman

SAN JOSE DEL MONTE CITY WATER DISTRICT
City of San Jose del Monte, Bulacan

URGENTLY NEEDS

POSITION	SALARY GRADE	SALARY
CHEMIST B	11	P 10,535.00 + allowance

- Bachelor's Degree in Chemistry
- With Licensure Exam (RA 1080)
- Preferably with related experience in laboratory works

Apply in person at: San Jose del Monte City Water District
B-19 L-9 Area A,
Road 1 Minuyan, Sapang Palay,
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Send your resumé with color photo to:
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Unit 4 & 5 GF Sky 1 Tower, 68 Dasmariñas St., Binondo, Manila

Or email resumé with color picture to binondo.alsi@ayalaland.com.ph
Indicate 'Applicant of <your name>' on the subject line.

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EX-OFW'S & FRESH GRADUATES ARE WELCOME TO APPLY

NOTE: Applicants must be 19-45 years of age with or without experience and willing to start immediately on October 14-16, 2004 from 8.00 AM to 4:00 PM and be assign in different positions on First Batch October 25-29, 2004/ 2nd Batch November 8-13, 2004.

Interested applicants may apply personally with resumé, 2x2 ID pic and any credentials at:

Room 003 G/F #235-C Mercan Bldg. EDSA Extension, Pasay City
(walking distance from MRT/LRT EDSA Station near Savers Square Dept. Store, beside Allied Bank & Honda Motors)

Look for: MS. THEA

PLS. CLIP THIS AD UPON APPLYING

Extra Joss, an Energy Drink in Powder, one of our clients is looking for Sales Promotions Executive for Manila, Cabuyao, and Iloilo Operations.

We need the following competent individuals to work with our clients on their marketing support activities from planning, project implementation up to the analysis and evaluation of the results thereof.

Qualifications:

SALES PROMOTION EXECUTIVE

(Supervisory Position)
- Male / Female
- Age 27-35 years old
- College graduate (preferably Management graduate)
  Have experienced working in the distributor or principal
- Honest, independent & hard working
- Flexible to socialize & creative
  Have knowledge to handle people

Please send your application letter, comprehensive resume stating salary history, 2x2 picture and transcript of records at:
DANCERG MARKETING AND PROMOTIONS SERVICES
3rd Floor, FCC Building
7494 Santillan Street, Makati City

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

The country's leading newspaper is looking for:

MARKETING INFORMATION OFFICER

Qualifications:
- Graduate of 4 year Business course, Management Information Systems or any relevant course
- 2 years marketing experience
- Knowledge in market research, product price, distribution and promotions strategies and its implementation.
- Creative Writing Skills, Ability to analyze the market and ability to organize, leadership skills, Interaction Management Skills & computer skills
- Familiar with database management systems
- Has experience in developing wireless promotions.

Responsibilities:
- Responsible for the administration of the encoding and compiling of database derived from various mediums for brand use. Also responsible for managing and developing the wireless and text promotion for brands in order to assist in achieving sales targets.

PERSONNEL ASSISTANT

Qualifications:
- Graduate of Psychology or Behavioral Science
- Preferably male, at least 2 years experience in recruitment and selection
- Familiar with psychological tests
- Knows how to use office software
- Interpersonal and Communication Skills, Analytical Skills, Report Writing Skills

Responsibilities:
- To provide recruitment, selection and employment services and maintain an HR information system.

SALES OFFICER – ADVERTISING

Qualifications:
- Graduate of Marketing course
- 3 years Marketing experience
- Leadership skills, Sales Management, Ability to analyze the market, Ability to maintain good client relationship, Negotiation skills, Interpersonal skills and Communication skills
- Familiar with the sales and marketing of the newspaper Advertising industry

Responsibilities:
- Management of the Advertising Sales team, handling the broadsheet niche products and Inq TV with the objective of increasing in market share and sales revenues.

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE – ADVERTISING

Qualifications:
- College graduate preferably Marketing or any Business course
- Knowledge in basic computer operations
- Interpersonal skills, Report Writing skills, Presentation skills, Filing skills, Communication skills

Responsibilities:
- Responsible for establishing and maintaining relationships with clients and ad agencies with the end view of soliciting ad placement to meet overall sales quota.

AUDIT ASSISTANT

Qualifications:
- Accounting graduate, preferably Certified Public Accountant (CPA)
- At least 2 years experience in auditing
- Preferably from reputable auditing firms
- Knowledge of General Accounting & Auditing Principles & Procedures
- Knowledge of Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing
- Knowledge of Financial Data analysis, Taxation & Labor Laws
- Analytical skills, Team player, can promote & implement appropriate process improvements
- Knowledge of auditing systems in newspaper industry

Responsibilities:
- Perform audit procedures, organize working papers, prepare and communicate reports based on results of audit examinations.
- Assisting in identifying risk, evaluating controls and preparing audit plans/programs.

Send your application letter and comprehensive resumé or e-mail to:
HR MANAGEMENT SERVICES HEAD
Philippine Daily Inquirer
Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo)
Corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City
E-mail: recruitment@inquirer.com.ph

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CR Airways Ltd., a home base airline in Hong Kong, invites high caliber and diligent candidates to fill the following vacancies:

1. Line Captain
(REF: HR/RE-PH/04Oct/001)

2. Flight Officer
(REF: HR/RE-PH/04Oct/002)

Requirements
- (Line Captain) Minimum 5000 hours total flight time in which 1000 hours PIC must be on commercial jets.
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Going global

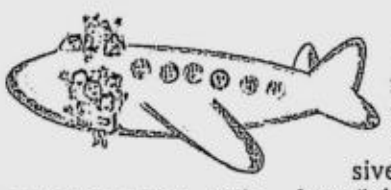
BEST Attitudes

By Teresa Reyes Tunay
Illustration by Rolando Reyes

"GLOBAL" has become the word in today's world of work. It seems your product or service (or person) wouldn't amount to anything if it cannot claim to be "global."

1 Some years back it was "world class," a phrase that was used to describe anything from acting to fashion, and to sell anything from brassieres to brandy.

2 Now it's "global"—we live in a "global village," belong to a "global community" and our slogans exhort us to "think global, act local." We talk about "global economy," "global consciousness," "global order." At times we even believe the quickest way to get our goods noticed in the market is to say we have "global standards."



3 Owing perhaps to the number of Filipino workers we have overseas, we have become steadily and progressively "global" in consciousness and orientation. But ... how "global" are we, honestly, and what does that word really mean?

4 Can Filipinos be called "global" just because our OFWs now order white wine instead of Coke at mealtimes on the flight?

5 Just because we now have dollar accounts in the bank, may we now be labeled "global" even if we still put ice in our beer, eat pizza with fork and knife, cut spaghetti as we would *pansit*, etc.?

6 There's no doubt that when it comes to technical skills or professional expertise, the Filipinos can stand shoulder to shoulder with the best in the world. It cannot be denied that the Filipino can do that and excel in whatever occupation he chooses worldwide—including big time swindling or gold-digging. But is that all that's needed to be known as "global"?

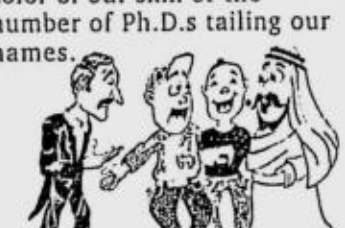
7 Mechanic, seaman, nurse, teacher, accountant, computer programmer, doctor, dentist, public servant, media practitioner, entertainer, performing artist—we have Pinoys who can do our country proud in any field he chooses even in non-traditional heretofore unexplored areas like ice-skating. (Ever heard of our skaters who garnered so many gold medals, beating opponents who come from "snow countries"?

8 Is that all that's needed to be called "global"—to be measured by standards set by countries or peoples "more global" than we are? Is this kind of "globalness" one that can bring out the best in the Filipino?

9 What is the ultimate measure of a person's "globalness"? Do we have a right to be regarded as "global" when our New York or Geneva apartments reek of *pritong tuyo* or sautéed *bagoong*? Do we owe our neighbors an apology if we country folk can't take the country out of us?

10 Are Filipinos totally global when we still cling to our clans or cliques and engage in rationalistic pettiness whether we are doctors or domestic helpers, in Chicago or in Milan?

11 We can only claim to be truly global when we, without renouncing our roots, are already a plus factor in fostering harmony and equality in the global community. For as long as we are still contributing to divisiveness in mankind, we are merely being parochial, not global, no matter the color of our skin or the number of Ph.D.s tailing our names.



12 One key that can make us genuinely global is: taking a new look at an old truth. Truth is the great equalizer. If we believe that we are all children of one and the same Father, we will love ourselves for what we are. We will not feel inferior nor superior to others, knowing that surface differences are but externals that should neither intimidate us nor inflate our egos, no matter where on the globe we happen to have been born. Basing all our actions on this premise, anything we plan and do will bear the mark of excellence. Our attitudes, skills, dealing at work cannot but be global.

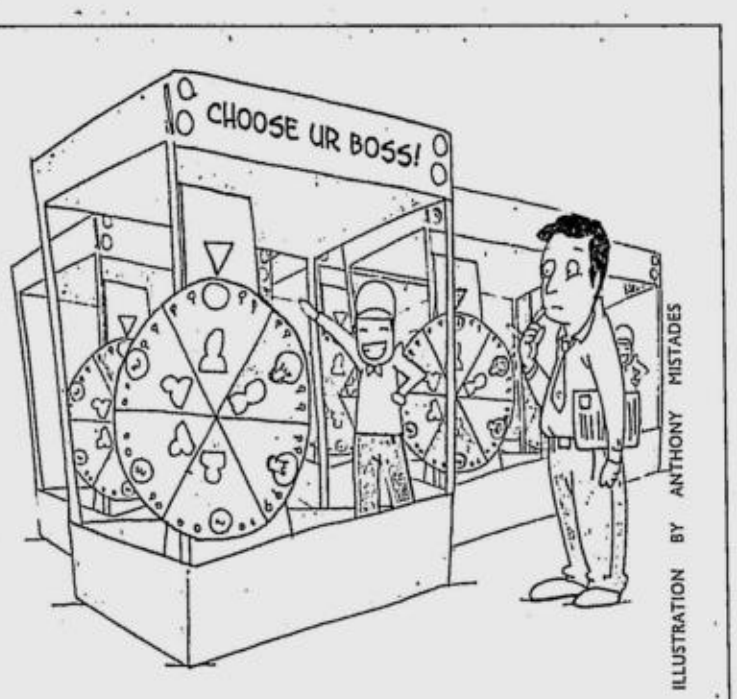


ILLUSTRATION BY ANTHONY MISTADES

'How important is my boss in my career success?'

By Ernie O. Cecilia, FPM

I USED to work in a fairly large company with a boss whom I thought I had a good working relationship with. However, things went a bit sour when I began questioning some of the company's policies, particularly on employee benefits. We had many contractual employees who we practically hired continuously by renewing short-term contracts. They were deprived of benefits and I had the guts to raise the matter with my boss. We disagreed on the matter, so I had to bring it up to our company headquarters. The top management of the company reversed my boss' decision and soon my boss was not talking to me anymore. After a few months, I was given my walking papers. Whenever I applied for employment with other companies, I always get turned down after they did a background check with my former boss.

Are bosses influential over one's career? Can we "use them" to our advantage? How can I "choose" the right boss for me?

Bothered and Bewildered

ASK YOUR CAREER COUNSELOR

Thank you for your straightforward letter. I am sure there are thousands of others in a similar predicament. Truly, bosses can make or unmake one's career. In fact, I believe that much of the success in careers depend to some extent on the right choice of bosses. "But, can we choose our own bosses?" you may ask.

There are a few things that we cannot choose—like parents. Most others—friends, officemates, jobs, careers, businesses, schools, hobbies, spouse, and boss—we can and we must choose carefully.

J. Martin Kohe once said, "The greatest power that a person possesses is the power to choose." I like to add, "Use that power or lose it."

Choose your boss

I hear many employees complain about how their bosses mistreat or maltreat them and feel that they can't do anything about it. Of course, they can do a lot about it—including dumping their bosses. More successful people are able to "choose" the company and the boss they work with. In like manner, bosses choose, through a rigorous process, the employees that they want to work with. So, why can't you choose your bosses, too?

Here are a few good reasons why you should choose your boss:

1. A good boss can help your career progress.
2. A good boss can help you get paid more.
3. A good boss can help you get promoted.
4. A good boss can give you a satisfying and rewarding job.
5. A good boss can inspire you to do a great job.

(I can cite several more reasons, and I know you can, but that eats up some space.)

You see, when you work for a boss in the workplace, it is almost like getting a "workplace spouse." In the same manner that you look hard, spend time before making a decision on your choice of a life spouse, use the same prudence in choosing your boss.

Assess your boss

During the job interview, your prospective boss will ask you a lot of questions to find out if you are the type of employee he is looking for. You should also take the opportunity to ask your prospective boss some questions (perhaps indirectly) to determine if he is the type of boss you are looking for. Try to ascertain yourself if this prospective boss is someone whom you would like to work with, respect, look up to, and go to for help when you need help.

HOWIMPORTANT/P.4★★

How do you ask for a raise?

WORKING WOUNDED
Bob Rosner

DEAR WW: I haven't had a raise in over two years. How can I convince my boss to give me the extra cash I deserve?

Raise Me Up

You're going to find this hard to believe, but I swear it's true. A judge in Virginia ordered a man to keep off the state's bike paths—not because he was a reckless rider, but because he insisted on lying down, covering himself with dirt and leaves, and waiting to get run over. He even complained when people swerved to avoid him.

(I told you. Didn't I tell you?) Unfortunately, when it comes to asking for raises, most of us are a lot like this man. We lie down camouflaged in the hallway and hope a raise will run us over. Then we complain bitterly when it doesn't. The fact of the matter, of course, is that raises rarely come and find you. YOU'VE got to go find THEM. And to do that, you've got to do some homework. The questions below should get you started. For more ideas check out Daniel Porot's book, "101 Salary Secrets" (Ten Speed, 2000).

Have you determined the right moment to ask? You need to nab your boss when she's in a good mood—which means you need to learn to read her emotional signals. Is she better in the morning, or the afternoon? Does the regular staff meeting make her tense or get her smiling? Even the biggest sourpuss has occasional moments of sweetness, so watch her like a hawk. And be ready to pounce the minute you see her smiling.

Have you prepared ammunition for why you deserve the raise? We're not talking charity here; we're talking money paid for work. So you to need demonstrate what you've done to deserve it. Have you raised productivity in your department? Increased revenue? Lowered costs? Brought every project in on time? Produced a year's worth of widgets with no defects? Use hard numbers to show why you deserve a bigger payday.

Have you decided what you want your raise to be? You're most apt to be successful if you ask for a specific dollar amount rather than just "a raise." Don't know what to ask for? At WorkingWounded.com we list the average salary for thousands of jobs. Obviously, geography and experience affect salaries, but it will give you a starting point.

Do you have a contingency plan? Despite all your planning, she may still say "no." But "no" isn't the

HOWDO/P.6★★

What's inside

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Reflections for the Working Soul p. 4★★

sunday INQUIRER magazine
GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE
October 21, 2007

Rico Blanco Geek God

He'd rather play keyboards and melt into the background, but a series of leavetakings pushed Rivermaya's songwriter and lead guitarist Rico Blanco to full pop stardom. This music nerd has certainly gone a long way

By Eric S. Caruncho
Photograph by Ernie U. Sarmiento

DON'T hate Rico Blanco because he's a pop star.

Don't hate him because his skinny ass is on a billboard 50 feet high telling you to join the "Pepsi Generation." Don't hate him because he drives to gigs in a brand-new Ford Explorer, dates Amanda Griffin and Heart Evangelista, and supposedly fathered KC Concepcion's love-child (though actually only in the showbiz gossip columns).

No.

If you must hate Rico Blanco, hate him because he writes perfect pop melodies that embed themselves into your memory with a single listening.

Hate him because he writes songs that tap the motherlode of adolescent yearning, all of them resonating with the thousands of fans—70 percent of them female, not all of them adolescent, chronologically speaking—who worship Rivermaya.

Hate him because, in the last 10 years, Rivermaya has released 10 discs, spawned more than 20 radio hits, and is actually getting better as they get older.

Hate him because he's a music geek who, touched by the gods of pop, has managed to transcend geekhood and live the pop star dream.

If you must hate Rico Blanco, you're probably a geek yourself, anyway, and more like him than you'd care to admit.

"As much as it sounds like a cliché, it's all about the music," says Rico Blanco. "Because music is why I'm here. If my music sucked, I wouldn't be on that billboard. I wouldn't still be here, 10 years later."

Though he's pushing 30, the verge of decrepitude in pop years, Blanco still looks very much the gangly adolescent in his old-school sneakers, baggy jeans and a black Paul Smith t-shirt which, on closer scrutiny, actually reads "Pepe Smith."

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The Reluctant Stud
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What Does Ace Have Up His Sleeve?
by Connie E. Fernandez, p. 5

She's Got the World On Her Strings
by Elizabeth Lolarga, p. 6

Rico ...from page 1

"I try to ignore those things as much as I can," he adds, referring to the showbiz gossip linking him to KC, and the other unwanted attention his increased media profile as a Pepsi endorser and all-around pop icon has brought. Blanco is clearly not one to agonize over being co-opted by the corporate marketing machinery targeting the youth demographic, and the consequent loss of musical "integrity," a la Kurt Cobain. It's just business, incidental to the real work of writing songs and creating music.

"Anything that gives me a megaphone for my message, whatever that message might be, is a good thing," he says. "Television, billboards, endorsements—anything that will amplify my guitar, bring it on!"

If that sounds a little rock-starish, consider that none of this might even exist were it not for a simple twist of fate: former lead singer Bamboo Mañalac's decision to leave the band and live in the United States. Arguably, the charismatic Bamboo's abrupt departure forced Blanco up front and opened a new chapter for Rivermaya.

The curse of Rivermaya

Eleven years ago, lying half-awake in his bed early one morning, Blanco heard an announcement over the radio: someone was holding auditions for a "rhythm guitarist/keyboard player." It turned out to be the auditions for an as-yet unnamed new band that managers Lizza Nakpil and Chito Roño were putting together, in the wake of the phenomenal success of bands such as True Faith and Afterimage.

Guitarist Perf de Castro, drummer Marc Escueta, bassist Nathan Azarcon and Bamboo had already signed on when Blanco came in as the keyboard player. But what really clinched the deal was the fact that he already had several finished songs—an album's worth, in fact. He also had a sheet of paper with several possible band names.

"I really liked the name Rizal Underground, but it was already taken. Rivermaya was the one my bandmates chose. We were still planning to change it, but the first time we announced ourselves as Rivermaya, we all looked at each other. It sounded right. *Yun na*. (That's it!)"

From the beginning, Rivermaya was at odds with the percolating music scene. In 1994, most of the bands had risen through the underground club scene. Their membership belonged to a loose community that gravitated around clubs such as Red Rocks and later, Club Dredd. They had paid their dues, but Rivermaya had hardly played any gigs when they landed a record deal, and almost immediately scored a hit single with "*Ulan*."

Rock snobs immediately came up with reasons not to like Rivermaya: They were too popular, too "pop," the frontman was too good-looking, their performances too polished, they were put together by managers who knew nothing about music, in effect, "manufactured." They were the Monkees—worse, the Archies—of OPM. Or at least that was how the indie-rock purists would have it.

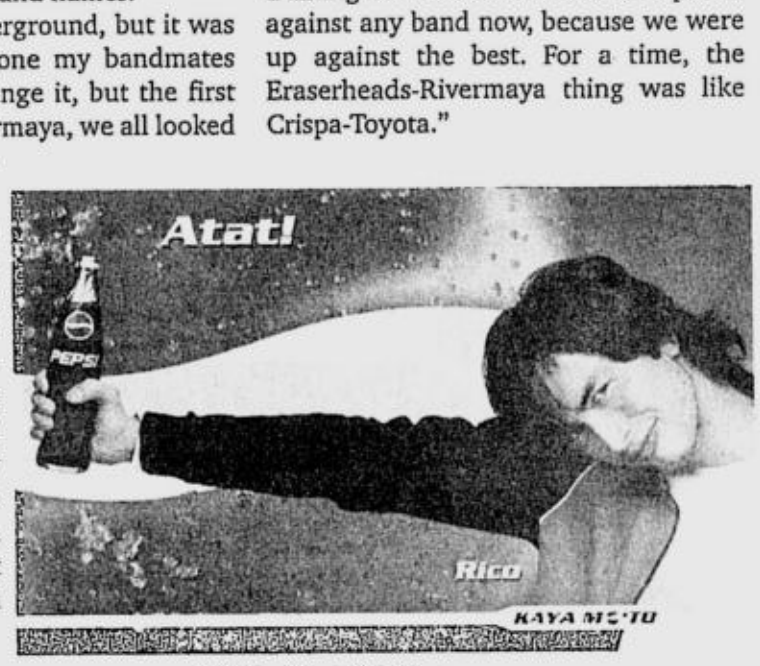
(Years later, some people still thought Rivermaya had ghostwriters composing hit songs for them—that's how hard it was for them to swallow the thought that Rivermaya might actually be any good.)

"If there's a band that's snob-able, that's us," acknowledges Blanco. "I know what you're talking about because I used to be a punk snob when I was a kid: I'd like a band, and when they became too popular, I'd hate them."

Some people skipped the liking part, and went straight to hating Rivermaya, mainly for not being the Eraserheads—that is, college buddies who came up through the ranks and created their own myth.

"For crying out loud, we were pitted against the Eraserheads, who were arguably the best ever," says Rico. "To be pitted against a phenomenon was great training for the future. You can pit us against any band now, because we were up against the best. For a time, the Eraserheads-Rivermaya thing was like Crispa-Toyota."

As a young Paul McCartney wannabe (right); success is a billboard ad (below)



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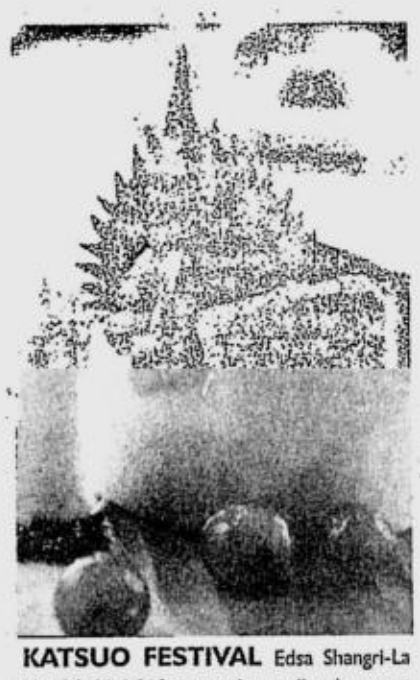

KATSUO FESTIVAL Edsa Shangri-La Manila's Nishiki features the smallest but most flavorful type of tuna during its Katsuo (Bonito Fish) Festival available for lunch and dinner until Oct. 31. Among the popular ways to prepare bonito is dried and shaved into thin flakes called hanakatsuo, or as sushi and sashimi. For inquiries, call 634-7373 or 633-8888 ext. 2738/39. *For more of This Week, see page 7*

Radio hits

One thing was undeniable, however: Rico Blanco could write songs. A string of radio hits followed, each one winning converts. "*Ulan*" was followed by "214," "*Elesi*," "*Himala*," "If," "*Kung Ayaw Mo, H'wag Mo*"—each an instant pop classic, each bearing an unmistakable stamp of authorship. Ely Buendia's songs were quirky, hip, ironic. Rico Blanco's songs, on the other hand, spoke of long hours alone in a bedroom, dwelling on hurts past, or daring to hope for a better tomorrow, or just dreaming the hours away. His songs said: Here's a lonely, sensitive soul pouring his heart out. Chicks, to say the least, dug it. They also dug the melodies that clearly owed a debt to Paul McCartney, as well as to the passionate, anthemic New Wave of '80s bands like Echo and the Bunnymen, Simple Minds and early U2.

("I actually miss them," Blanco muses about their old rivals. During their live sets, Rivermaya often performs a cover of Buendia's "*Magasin*" as a tribute to the 'Heads.)

Shortly after the first album's release, guitarist de Castro departed to form his own band. Rather than look for a new guitar player, Blanco filled in.

"That whole second album ("Trip," 1996) is a documentary of my learning to play guitar," he recalls.

The keyboardist is always the dorkiest member of the band. Playing guitar pushed Blanco forward, into the spotlight. Fans began to notice him more.

The band released a third album, "Atomic Bomb" in 1997, which yielded four No. 1 hits. They marked time the following year with a remix album, then released a fourth album in 1999 called "It's Not Easy Being Green."

And then, following a successful US tour, Bamboo announced that he was leaving. Rather than look for a new frontman, Blanco was again pushed forward, this time to be lead singer.

"I didn't agree right away," he recalls. "At first, I thought '*tama na 'to, kanya-kanya na lang* (we've gone far enough, let's split). It wasn't my first time to sing—I was singing with my first few bands in high school. I said, 'Let's try a couple of gigs, *tingnan natin*' (let's see)."

Rico recalls: "I thought they were going to throw rocks at me. We had a standing offer: If they're not happy with the performance, we would give them their money back. Nobody ever did."

Something clicked into place when Blanco became Rivermaya's frontman, and fans noticed immediately.

Like using their name for the first time, it just felt right. "It was easier to interpret the songs that I was writing," he says. "I didn't have to explain it to anyone. I knew how certain words or phrases should be sung. One very obvious advantage during shows was that you're not just covering a song that someone wrote; it's your emotions you're singing."

Arguably, Rivermaya became a different band when Blanco started fronting it.

"When you lose someone, you also gain something," he adds. "A new sound, a new chemistry. It could be one factor why we're still around."

As if to seal the changes that had taken place, Rivermaya released their fifth album independently in 2000, and gave it away for free on the Internet. "Free" remains the favorite album for many hardcore fans, not only because it was a gift from the band, but also because it marked Blanco's recorded debut as frontman, and included the highly-charged "emo" anthem, "Faithless," revealing hitherto unexplored emotional depths.

Bassist Nathan Azarcon's subsequent departure, though emotional, didn't change the band's character as much as Bamboo's did. (Ironically, Azarcon and Bamboo are now playing together in the latter's eponymous band.)

Neither did the band's decision to leave their label BMG for Viva Records, giving Rivermaya-haters another reason to dislike the band, Viva being the epitome of "corporate pop" for many Pinoy music fans.

Blame it on the Beatles

"I've been singing since I was a kid," recalls Blanco. "In any family gathering, I'd be the one singing, dancing or making speeches. When my uncle (the late Speaker Ramon Mitra) used to campaign, he would make me sing on stage."

Blanco was drawn to melodic pop early on.

"I grew up on my uncle's record collection," he says. "He wouldn't let me touch his Beatles collection, so my mom would buy the individual albums for me. I got a lot of flak for that somewhere between grade 5 and high school, because there was a time when it wasn't cool to say you liked the Beatles."

Blanco's high school years coincided with the emergence of the Pinoy new wave. "I went to Bene (Benedictine Abbey) which is a very good school if you're into music," he recalls. Among his schoolmates were future music makers like Karl Roy, Ira Cruz, Groove Nation's Toti Dalmacion and future members of Freestyle and Afterimage.

"Our high school dance featured the Ethnic Faces, Violent Playground, Dean's December—all these great bands—so it was good training for me."

In any high school, there are science nerds, math nerds and English nerds. Blanco was a music nerd. "Every week, I'd tune into the American Top 40, and write down the songs from number 40 to number 1 on graphing paper. I would know which album a song came from, and what year it was released. I knew which song was number 1 a year ago. Yeah, I was a music geek. I was only cool because I knew how to write songs, and had tapes circulating of the songs I had made on my Yamaha Portasound."

An aunt had taught him basic keyboard chords, and that was all it took to get him started writing songs. He also hung out with the disc jockeys of Positive Noise, a "mobile," and listened to them spinning New Wave records after

To page 6

MORE TO LIFE

The article "Life After Victory Joe" (**SIM**, September 12, 2004) suggests that there's no more life after Victory Joe. Only a miserable life beset by uncontrollable poverty, population explosion, corruption, violence, foreign debts, dengue fever, red tide, flash floods, etc. But, at least, if Victory Joes have "pampam" girls, we have "pokpok" girls to make us forget and think we are not deprived of that comfort which is just one of the many comforts Victory Joes always have.

JOSHUA IBANEZ
jzjred@yahoo.com

ENOUGH OF CHAVIT

Shouldn't your magazine have chosen another topic or subject besides Mr. Chavit Singson? ("Dark Knight," **SIM** October 17, 2004) I believe that this isn't the first time he's been featured in your newspaper and his appearance in last Sunday's issue mentioned nothing new but only rehashed the same old anecdotes we all know by now. Perhaps next time we readers would like to know about him when he's gone but not before. There are other more interesting and relevant stories out there waiting to be discovered and written.

GERARDO B. REYNALDO
jojo_rsg@yahoo.com

ATTENTION CONTRIBUTORS!

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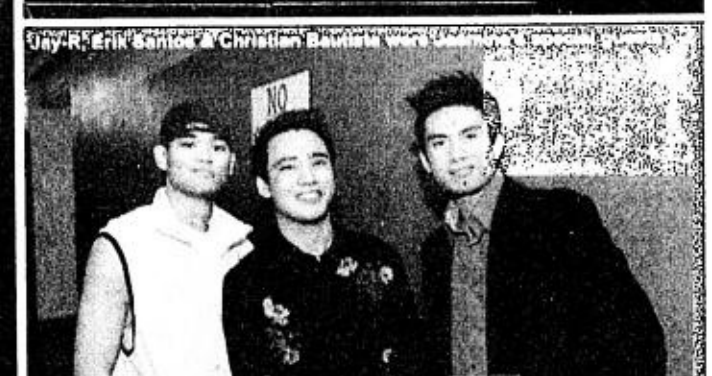
I'm Finally Home

SMART Presents Jasmine Trias in Concert



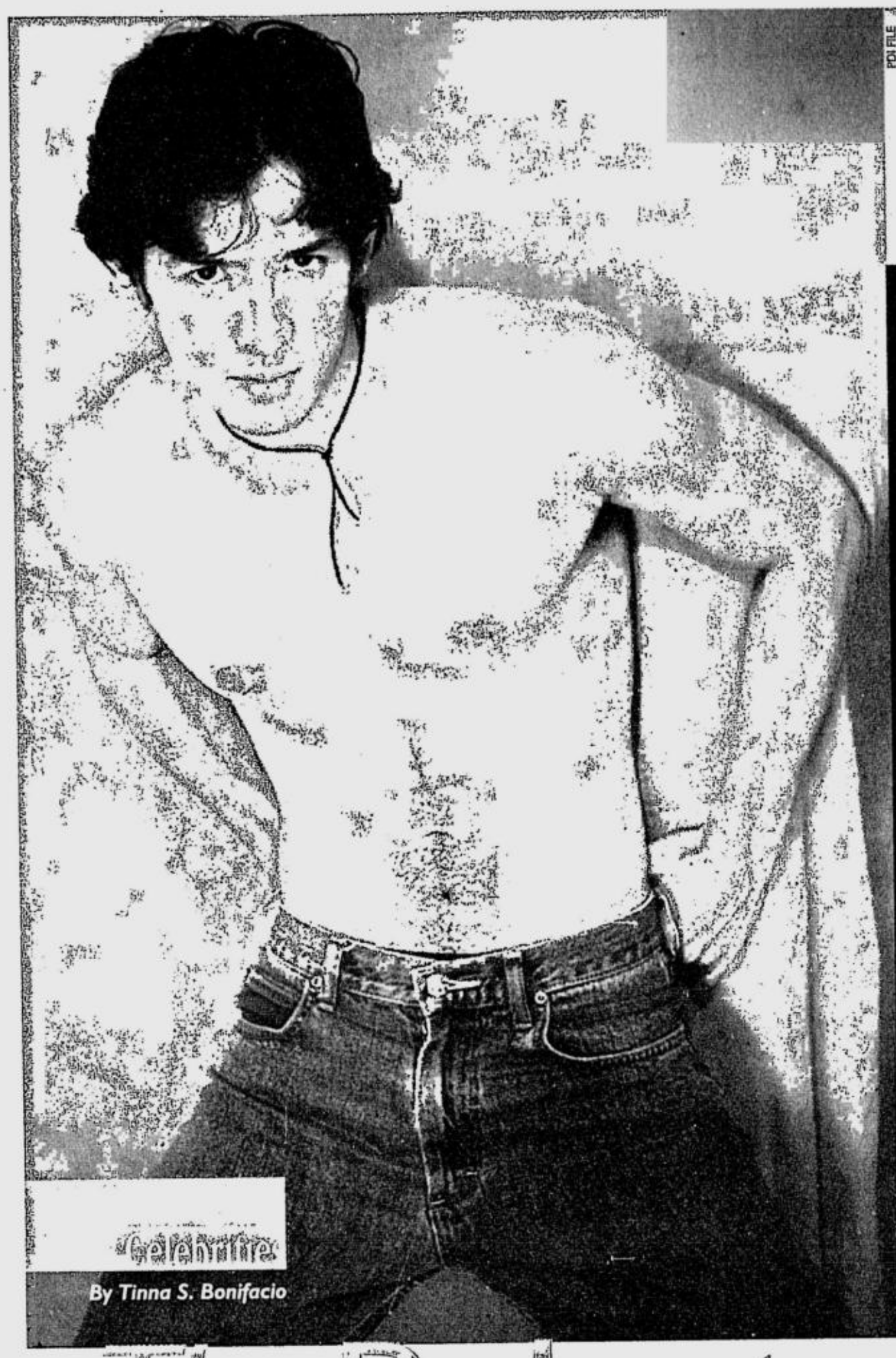
She glowed onstage, as if this is where she was always meant to be. The 17-year old showed the exuberance of youth, yet the experience of someone who has endured a lot to get to this point. Jasmine Trias has seen her world turned upside down over the past year, earning a slot in the top three of the talent search known as "American Idol". It all came to a head on this October night in the Araneta Coliseum as the Filipino-American idol finally performed in front of her fans for a homecoming concert like no other.

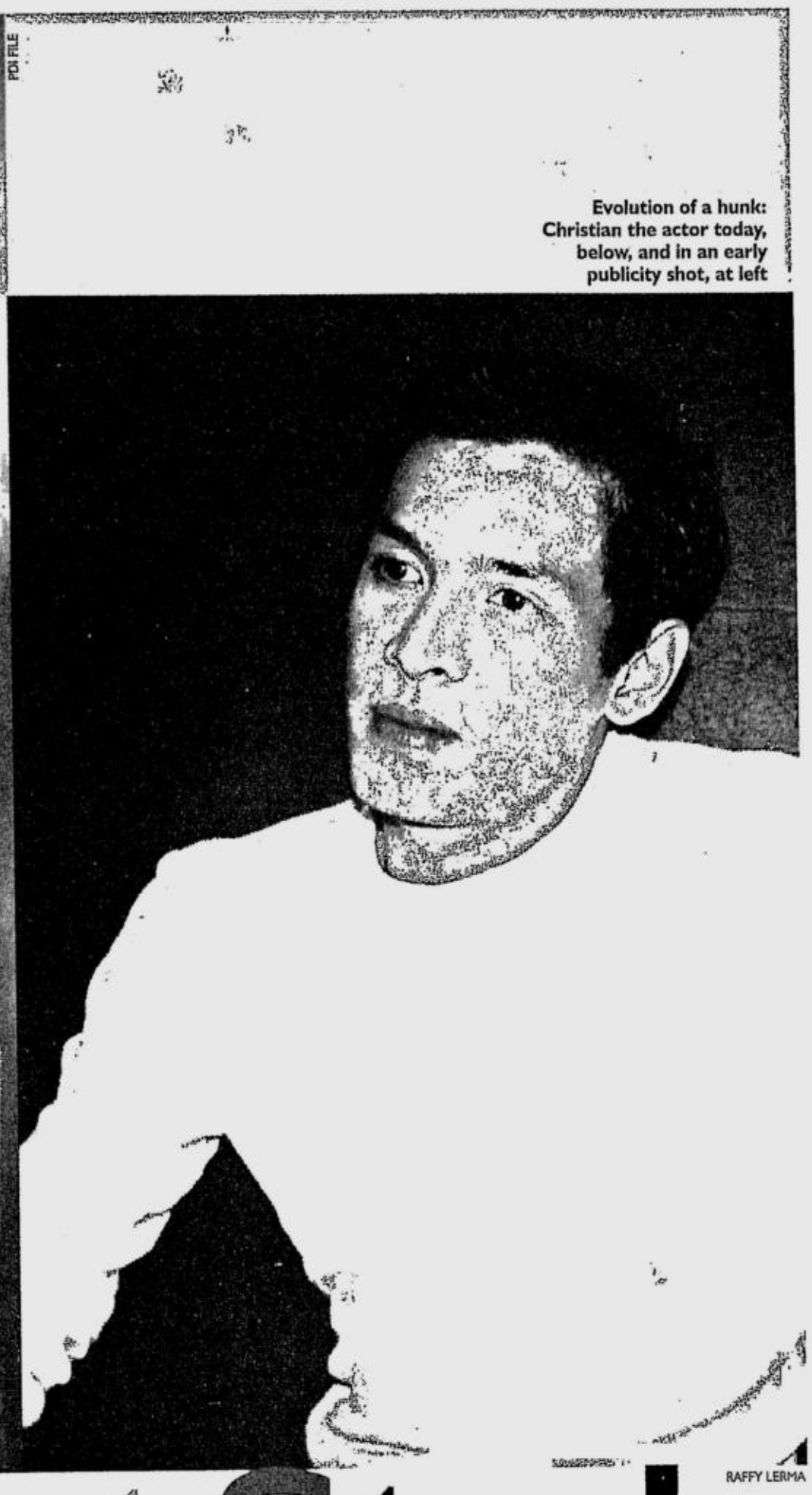
All of the mall tours, courtesy calls, motorcades, and visits to her ancestral roots in Cavite were geared toward this moment. Throughout this whirlwind visit, SMART IDD has been there for Jasmine Trias and her family. Just like Jasmine, so many Pinoys abroad would love to come home and reconnect with their family here. And everyday, SMART IDD reinforces those bonds of family and camaraderie worldwide. With phone calls at 40c a minute, SMART IDD brings them home as if they were right beside you. SMART International Text and International MMS keeps you in touch with them.

The night was a display of Jasmine's versatility as a performer and her range as a singer. With friends Christian Bautista, Erik Santos, and Jay-R, Jasmine showed that she could sing more than just ballads. As she went from Alicia Keys' uptempo "Heartburn" to Dionne Warwick's classic "I Know I'll Never Love this Way Again", and the theme song of one of her mom's favorite soap operas in Hawaii, "Mula sa Puso", Jasmine proved comfortable singing any genre. A particular highlight was when she energized the Big Dome with a rocking version of Bamboo's "Noy-pi" with Christian, Erik, and Jay-R.

For her final song, Jasmine sang the SMART IDD jingle, the Ogie Alcasid composition that was originally recorded by Regine Velasquez, "Kailangan Ko'y Ikaw". Jasmine was thankful for the opportunity to record this tune, and with her family in attendance, truly poured her heart into it. At the end of the song though, Jasmine's fans wouldn't let her go. She came back for a powerful rendition of Whitney Houston's "I Will Always Love You", and for a second encore, the song which she considers was her best performance on American Idol, Natalie Cole's "Inseparable". Both songs were a not-so-subtle message to her fans in the Philippines that, for Jasmine, she will always love them and that Jasmine and the Philippines will always be inseparable.

SMART IDD 40¢ a minute





PDI FILE

Evolution of a hunk: Christian the actor today, below, and in an early publicity shot, at left

By Tinna S. Bonifacio

RAFFY LERMA

The Reluctant Stud

Good looks, frequent propositions and Kris Aquino notwithstanding, actor Christian Vasquez remains in many ways the probinsyano and single dad from Bacolod who's still looking for the woman who will love him

CHRISTIAN Vasquez has never been the type to keep secrets from the press, but he notes that lately, they only want to know one thing: Is there really something going on between him and Kris Aquino?

Despite this, the 27-year old actor, underwear model and single dad (to sons Matthew, 7 and Jason, 6) obliges when the question is asked yet again. But this time around, it is Christian who surprises us when he replies, with the shy smile and Ilonggo charm that women find so irresistible, "*Ayokong pangunahan* (I don't want to preempt it), but if it happens, I'd be happy."

The two currently play sweethearts on ABS-CBN's primetime teleserye "*Hiram*." But the rumors about them started to swirl much earlier, after Christian guested on an episode of "Good Morning, Kris" about love and romance. In the course of the discussion, Kris happened to mention that her favorite chocolates were Maltesers. So the next day, on his way to the ABS-CBN studios for the taping of "*Hiram*," Christian stopped by a convenience store and bought Maltesers to give to Kris. "I wanted to thank her for recommending me for the role on '*Hiram.*' She's been so nice, and I wanted to do something nice for her."

Christian says there is nothing not to love about Kris. Like Joey Marquez and Mark Lapid before him, he finds Kris intelligent, beautiful—"*Ang linis-linis niya sa katawan,*" (She's so clean) he says—and gracious.

So, the question again. Is he or isn't he? Courting Kris, that is. This time around, Christian smiles in a way that tells you he isn't willing to say anything more on the subject.

Single dad

But somehow, it's what he doesn't say that the press finds most interesting. When asked if he's not bothered by the fact that Kris is a single mother, Christian simply replies, "Well, I'm a single dad *naman, eh.*"

Being a single father is a big part of Christian's life. Christian confesses that more than once, he's put potential girlfriends through the wringer, just to see if they can accept the fact that he has two sons by another woman. The boys' mother (who has since settled in the US) met Christian in Bacolod when she was only 17. She got pregnant, and the two married after Matthew was born. The marriage has not been annulled because, as Christian puts it, he has no plans of getting married again, at least not at the moment.

Besides, he has his sons to worry about. "I wish I could bring them to Manila to live with me, but I have to go out everyday for work, and I don't want to leave them with a *yaya,*" he says.

The boys live with his parents in Bacolod, where they also go to school. Matthew is in Grade One, and Jason, in Prep at La Salle Bacolod. "If ever I bring the kids here, my parents would have to come with them, and my parents can't leave because they're taking care of my grandparents."

Christian believes that part of being a good father is not just being with his sons physically, but providing for their needs, too—which is why he is working so hard. He feels bad that for the first time since they were born, he missed both boys' birthdays. He had to be in Manila for tapings of "*Hiram,*" and couldn't make the annual trip home to Bacolod. But he did call and speak with them both on the phone. That, he says, eased his conscience somewhat. "I feel bad when that happens, because right now, I'm all they've got. I want them to feel that if their mom isn't there, then at least their dad is. But sometimes I really can't be there because of work. When that happens, I really try to make it up to them."

Any woman who intends to be part of Christian's life will have to be part of the boys' lives, as well. And it's not going to be easy. Out of concern for them (and maybe because of the emotional scars left by his brief first marriage), Christian has become very demanding where women are concerned. Unconsciously, it's like a test he puts them through to find out if they're in love with Christian the ramp model and sexy actor, or Christian, the *probinsyano* from Bacolod and single dad.

Take away the sexy roles, the buff body, and the onscreen image, and leave just him, his sons and the fact that he's a single father carrying around emotional baggage from the past. With that, he asks, would women still want him? More important, will they be around for the long haul?

Relentless boyfriend

That's why he is relentless when in love. "When I have a girlfriend, I want to know where she is every single minute of the day. I ask her to text or call me when she leaves the house, to tell me where she's going and who she's with. I also wait for her to text me when she gets there, and when she leaves. *Hindi ko nga alam kung bakit ganito ako. Siguro, dahil takot akong mawala siya sa akin.* (I don't know why I'm like this. Maybe I'm afraid to lose her.) In a way, maybe I'm also trying to prove to myself that she really loves me."

Once, a girlfriend broke up with him because she couldn't take his incessant questioning. That time, Christian wanted to take her out to dinner. She refused, telling him that she didn't feel well and that she was going home. Later, Christian saw his girlfriend at a bar with her own friends. Naturally, he began interrogating her. "*Akala ko ba masama ang pakiramdam mo?*" (I thought you felt bad?) he asked, glaring at her. Not content, he followed her to her car, peppering the poor girl with questions the whole time. Needless to say, she didn't stay around much longer after that.

Because of this, Christian has trouble holding on to relationships. His friends like to joke that he holds the world record for shortest-lived relationships. "Three months is already a long time. He even had a girlfriend for 10 days once," says one friend.

Christian knows that what he is doing is wrong, and yet, he is powerless to stop himself. At the back of his mind is the thought that the woman patient enough to put up with this kind of treatment must really love him. "But I do know I have to change my ways," he says in Filipino.

That, for him, is the most difficult thing about being Christian Vasquez. People seem to have the idea that just because he takes off his clothes in the movies, that in private he is still a stud who considers sex a sport and who has more women than he can handle. In truth, Christian doesn't even have a girlfriend at the moment. "Sometimes it's sad, *pero* okay *lang*. I keep myself busy with work," he says, turning wistful all of a sudden.

Trying to live down the image can be difficult. The worst part is when Christian gets propositioned. Once, he received a call on his cell phone from a man (yes, a man) who said he wanted to invite Christian to dinner and be his friend. That didn't upset Christian, because he is used to getting calls like that. What really upset him was when the man added, "I'll compensate you." Irritated, he told the man, "I'm sorry, I don't do that kind of thing," and hung up.

On the one hand, says Christian, that can be flattering, because if they believe in the image, it means that he has done his job as an actor. "But the problem is that some people don't understand that it's just a job, that the person they see on the screen is not me, but me acting."

His next film, "*Minsan Pa,*" produced by MLR Films and directed by Jeffrey Jeturian, opens on November 24, and will feature Christian in his first heavy dramatic role.

In real life, Christian is closer to the dutiful son he played in the PLDT commercial that launched his career. His mother keeps an album with all the news clippings about her son. Sometimes, when she thinks a pictorial is too sexy, she will call him and express her opinion. "But they support me wholeheartedly. They, and other people who really know me know that what I'm doing is just a job. This is not me."

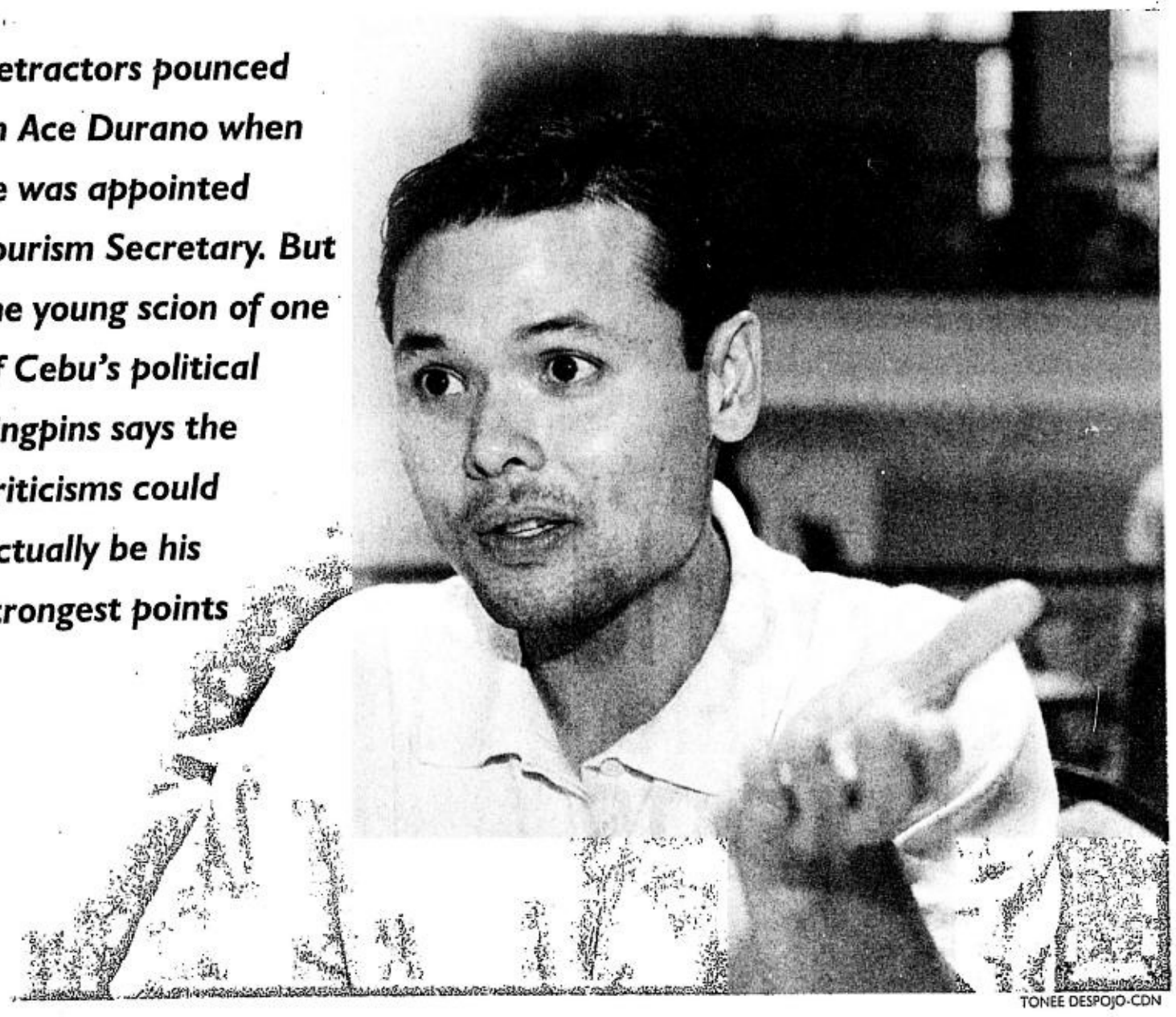
What woman, we wonder, wouldn't give a lot for the chance to discover who Christian Vasquez really is?

Movers and Shakers

By Connie E. Fernandez
PDI Visayas Bureau

What Does Ace Have Up His Sleeve?

Detractors pounced on Ace Durano when he was appointed Tourism Secretary. But the young scion of one of Cebu's political kingpins says the criticisms could actually be his strongest points



TONEE DESPOJO-CDN

HIS recent appointment as Tourism Secretary drew criticism and charges of political patronage. After all, Joseph Ace Durano, 34, comes from the powerful Durano clan in Cebu, where President Arroyo won a decisive margin in this year's election. His experience in government as a two-term representative has been limited to legislation. He's also lived most of his life in the United States, and his college diploma on Asian Studies has nothing to do with tourism or even management.

At first glance, this lean mestizo seems ill-qualified for the job of selling the country abroad, what with the terrorist threat, the economic crisis and political uncertainties, making the Philippines a favorite subject of travel advisories.

But Ace shrugs off such skepticism. It's the same work he's been doing the last six years, says this Cebu congressman who took over his father's last term in 1998.."Now, I have a different constituency but the responsibility remains the same, which is to serve the people's needs." Tourism, he adds, needs a strong partnership between government and the private sector. "That is what constituency work is all about." His role at the Tourism Department, says Ace, is to work in tandem with the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police for peace and order, and the Departments of Telecommunications and Public Works and Highways for infrastructure.

His college degree should also come in handy for the job, says this 1991 graduate of the University of Redlands in California. "My academic background involved studying the development model of various Asian countries, and tourism played a big role in that." Even his stay in the US, says Ace, provided him with a "global perspective."

The second of seven siblings says he was sent to the US in 1983 after completing his elementary education in Cebu City, because his parents wanted to give him a "different perspective of things." He adds, "You know how it is when you are part of a political family. You're always surrounded by people trying to please you and all that stuff. It's not healthy." Still, says Ace, he kept in touch with what was happening in the country by making sure he and his siblings went home during Christmas and summer vacations.

Ace is a scion of the Durano clan that, for decades, has ruled over northern Cebu's fifth district, particularly Danao City, which is known for its gun-making industry. His grandfather, Ramon Durano Sr., was considered Cebu's political kingpin in the 1960s. His father, Ramon "Nito" Durano III, was a three-term congressman of Cebu's fifth district and is now mayor of Danao City.

Second honors

Ace finished law with second honors at the Ateneo, where he founded a student scholarship foundation. He had just passed the bar when he was tapped to take over his father's congressional seat in 1998. After serving two terms, he won a third in the last election when President Arroyo named him to the Cabinet. It might have helped that when the Nationalist People's Coalition, of which he was secretary general, split into two factions, he stuck it out with the President. But Ace maintains that he did not ask for the post.

Ace is married to Carmen Luzurriaga, who also belongs to a landed clan in Negros Occidental. He met his wife, he says, during the engagement dinner of his elder brother Red and Carmen's twin sister, Carmel. Carmen was supposed to leave for Spain but Ace, fearing he might lose her to "Ricky Martin" look-alikes abroad, immediately made his move. They tied the knot in 1992.

With a young family and the Tourism portfolio to attend to, Ace has to commute regularly between his Manila office and his home in Cebu City. Describing himself foremost as a "family man" more than a politician or Cabinet Secretary, he says he goes home weekly "for my sanity." Getting away from his crazy schedule gives him time to attend to his wife, who has her own business, his son Ace Jr., 10, and daughter Angela Cara, 9. Although they're not complaining about his frequent absence, Ace says Angela demands that she be informed about his whereabouts. "There are two women tracking down my schedule," he chuckles. "My wife and my daughter."

But definitely, Ace's critics and detractors will be tracking his moves for the Tourism department, a thought that does not faze him. Under his term, the DOT should bring in five million tourists by 2010, up from the current tourist arrival figure of two million, vows Ace. Partnership with the private sector will be enhanced, he promises. The government does the promotion, while the private sector develops, packages and delivers products in accordance with the preferences of the target market. The DOT's focus will be on promotion, which will be market-driven, instead of having pet projects, says Ace. "We tend to be so overwhelmed with the beauty of this country that the mindset has become 'Let's develop this, let's develop that.' That initiative belongs to the private sector."

Target markets

The DOT's focus, says Ace, will be on international promotions, with three priority target markets: Japan, South Korea and China. At present, the country gets a very slim slice of the three countries' outbound tourists: only two percent of Japan's 15 million, four percent of South Korea's 7 million, and 0.2 percent of China's 20 million. Tapping these three markets can easily help the DOT achieve its target and ease the country's fiscal crisis, says Ace. Five million tourists, he adds, can bring in $5 billion because every tourist is expected to spend a little over $100 a day. A tourist usually stays an average of nine days in the country so that's about $1,000 expenditure for each. This, says Ace, is enough to create one job. If the DOT hits its target, five million jobs will be created, he adds. "The beauty of this is that tourist money goes directly to businesses," says Ace, "specifically restaurants, tour operators, taxi drivers, hotels."

To be able to achieve its goal, the DOT should not only be target-specific, but also destination specific, says the new Tourism secretary. He names Cebu, Bohol, Subic, Clark, and Palawan as among the areas to be promoted aggressively. "It is a strategy that works around the socio-economic and political stigma attached to the Philippines," says Ace.

At the same time, promotions will be based on market-segments where the Philippines has proven itself competitive: beach, sightseeing, eco-tourism and malls. "Our marketing initiatives will depend on these markets. We have to be very focused," he says.

To counter the country's negative image abroad, the DOT will upgrade its website to make sure there is enough information about the Philippines. Tourists usually get their travel information from the Internet, Ace points out. Aside from the usual data about the country's sights, the website will contain updates on the peace and order situation in the Philippines. Reports about bombings or killings in any part of the country will be put up but will be written in the proper context. "We can say it is an isolated case, while this here's a war zone. So don't go there. Several brigades of the military are undertaking operations in that area," says the DOT official.

Police statistics

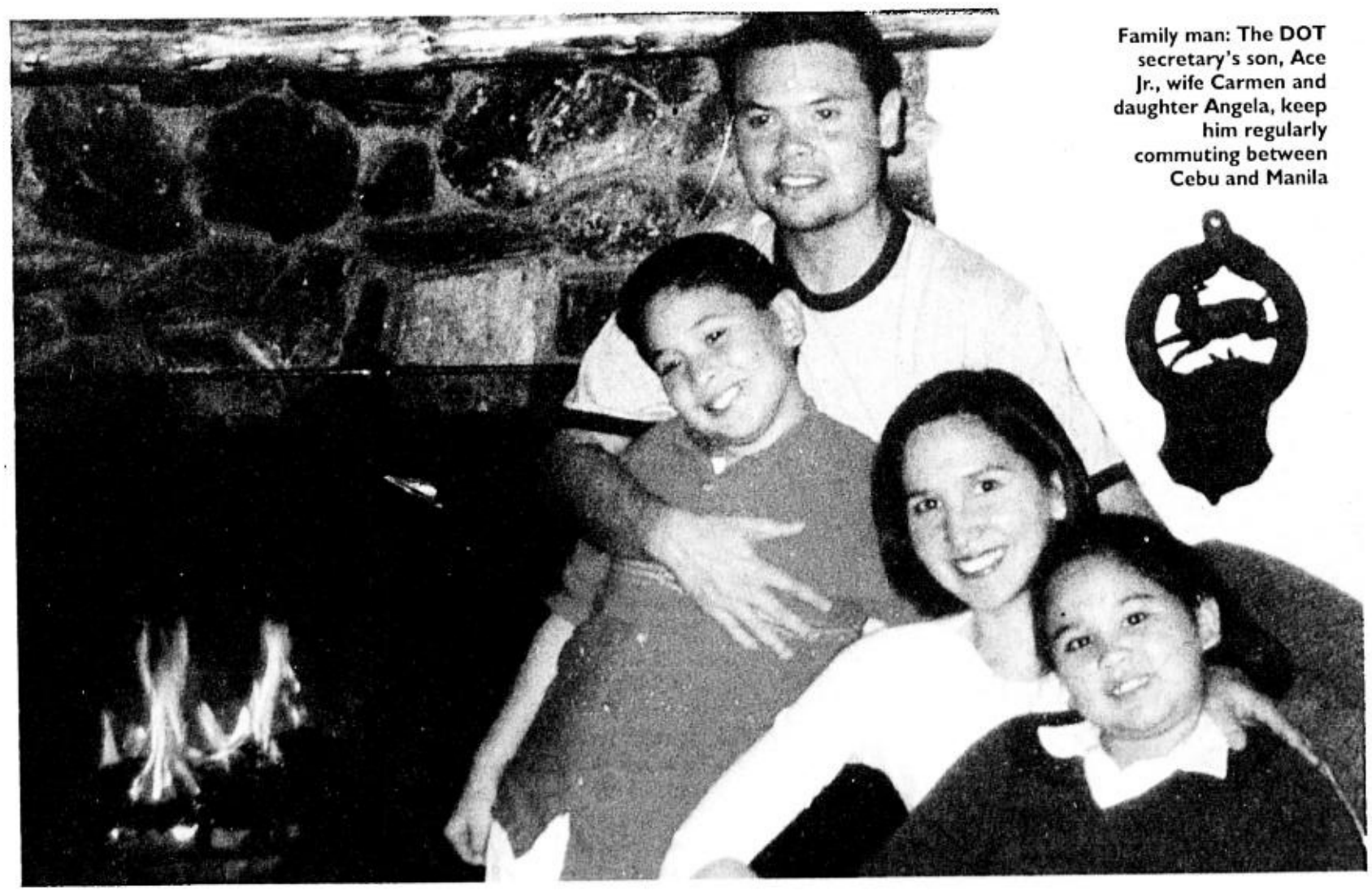
He is confident about giving the facts, says Ace, because police statistics show that "you can barely count with your fingers" the number of foreigners who have fallen victim to violence during their stay in the country.

With travelers now being more "sophisticated" and well-informed, says Ace, even the threat of global terrorism can be minimized. They usually check the veracity of travel advisories released by their respective countries, provided these are not travel bans, he adds. "So again, part of the international promotion is to enhance our capability for proper information placed within the proper context, as well as proper response to reports about the country."

To further improve the country's image in the international media, the DOT will sponsor "a lot" of familiarization tours for members of the foreign press, especially from the three target countries. Recently, the DOT invited journalists from Japan, South Korea and China to join the caravan throughout the country with Miss Earth candidates from Oct. 9 to 19. "These ladies are not the rugged types and they're traveling by land throughout the country. The message is, the Philippine is safe," says Ace.

It's a big job, but Ace says he has no misgiving about accepting the appointment. He views it as doing something "greater than myself."

But he does have one regret in life, adds Ace. "I wish I had met my wife sooner," he laughs.



Family man: The DOT secretary's son, Ace Jr., wife Carmen and daughter Angela, keep him regularly commuting between Cebu and Manila

Young Achievers

By Elizabeth Lolarga

She's Got the World On Her Strings

Violinist Angela Calimon may face such obstacles as loneliness and physical injury, but she's committed to the life of a classical musician

ROGER CARPIO

SHE's the best argument for continuing the airplay of classical music over DZFE. Violinist Angela Rose Estrada Calimon, 20, an incoming senior majoring in orchestra instrument performance at the Catholic University of America (CUA) in Washington D.C., grew up listening to her mother Connie's favorite radio station. Angela, recalls her mom Connie, "was a sharp kid who had a good memory." She was almost six when she was finally allowed to take instructions in playing the instrument.

The exposure to classical music also shaped another Calimon daughter, Therese, an alto of The Hail Mary the Queen Children's Choir, which just won a gold medal at the recent Bremen Choir Olympics in Germany. With their father, Gil, a mechanical engineering graduate of the University of Santo Tomas, and their mother, a UST chemistry graduate and self-described "stay-at-home wife," the two girls regularly went to concerts at the Cultural Center, Paco Park, Philamlife Theater, at the malls and student recitals.

Beethoven's violin concerto particularly struck Angela, who started her weekly lessons initially with Francis Yumul at the Yamaha School in Greenhills and later, with Rey Cadorniga.

In 1996, she gained enough proficiency to win first place in the elementary level, strings category, of the National Music Competition for Young Artists (NAMCYA). Then a sixth grader at the Immaculate Conception Academy in San Juan, Metro Manila, she regarded the win casually. "*Hindi ko sinulat sa noo ko na nanalo ako* (I didn't have to broadcast it to the world). People knew, but it wasn't anything that needed fireworks."

Late bloomer

She also confesses to being a late bloomer when it comes to classical music, contrary to what her mom believes. "I didn't really, really like classical music until high school. But it was there and it was what I was assigned to play."

At the Philippine High School for the Arts in Mt. Makiling, Laguna, Angela warmed up to classical music as a genre, although she would occasionally listen to pop and a little rock. "Unlike in regular schools, our teachers understood our love for the arts and the need to be in a musical competition."

The Makiling years exposed her to chamber music under Coke Bolipata. She took pleasure playing with his Pundaquit Chamber Players in churches in Manila. "Coke is so enthusiastic. You can tell he really enjoys music, both teaching and performing."

What she appreciated about her Makiling years was "not so much that I was away from my parents but that I learned to deal with immediate problems by myself. I was on my own. I made my own decisions and found out what I liked and didn't like."

Angela took her master classes under Oscar Yatco, whom she described as possessing "an odd and dry sense of humor. He believed in what I could do, and would challenge me a lot." He also admonished her for her bad habit of positioning her fingers way too high from the fingerboard. "Your fingers look like five jumping shrimps," Yatco told her.

The additional lessons paid off as she won second place in the 1999 NAMCYA in the strings category for high school.

After graduating class salutatorian, Angela went to violinist Sergio Esmilla Jr. for four months of lessons. "He taught me to listen to myself and pay attention to what I was doing."

From Sergio's son Joseph, Angela got a list of recommended violin teachers in the US. She then sent pre-audition tapes to the violinists in the list, and later received an acceptance note from Jody Gatwood, principal violin teacher at the Benjamin T. Rome School of Music at CUA. It turned out that the younger Esmilla also took lessons under him so Angela was equipped with firsthand information about this "good and kind man" who also happens to be the concertmaster of the National Philharmonic Orchestra.

More assertive

Angela is at the CUA on a partial scholarship. At first she felt so lonely that her phone bills soared astronomically. As she learned to adjust, she also learned to be more assertive, "because that's how they do things there. In the classroom, students are not passive learners. They're expected to have their own definite opinions. You don't wait for the teachers to give you everything. If you disagree, you should make it known. *Hindi puwede yung hiya-hiya* (You can't afford to be shy)."

For her studies abroad, she brought the secondhand violin that her parents bought for her. It has lost its original label but it has been with her for 10 years now, and knowledgeable people venture diverse opinions on the instrument's provenance. Some say it's German, others say it's French. The age of the instrument is also a mystery, the earliest estimate being from World War II and the oldest, 125 to 150 years old.

But Angela has more pressing concerns than her instrument's origins. She has yet to regain her strength after she developed problems on her right shoulder area and the right side of her neck, which has affected her right hand and arm. "Some people don't believe that you can get injured as a musician. All musicians use their small muscles, their hands and arms in repetitive movements. Any musician is injury-prone if they're not careful and physically fit."

At 5'6", the statuesque Angela admits to hardly being the sporty type. Being high-strung, she describes her injury as both physically and personality-related. "I wasn't in the best physical shape last year. Mentally I'm very tense. It comes from being a perfectionist. I can be a little too serious and driven. This personality carries over to how I play. I make *banat* (my strokes come) in spurts. Being a perfectionist can be a good thing for a musician, but it can also be unhealthy."

Yoga class

When conventional therapy didn't work, Angela turned to alternative medicine, signed up for yoga class for injured people, and learned the Alexander technique, which focuses on how to move more naturally and free oneself of bad movement habits so that the body can function more efficiently. She also took up body work called Rolfing, a kind of massage that puts the muscles back in their proper alignment until the body works better with gravity.

She says these techniques have helped her "become more aware of, and have more respect for, my body. You cannot insist on what you want your body to do because sometimes it would resist."

The alternative treatment, augmented with acupuncture, Chinese massage and herbal medicine, got her back to playing. She even drank decoctions of herbs and dried scorpions. She made a face when asked to describe the taste, but she says the pain was relieved.

As she gets stronger, she looks towards a future in graduate school, "depending on what happens. I would like to perform, concentrating on recitals and be part of the trend of introducing classical music to the provinces." She is also toying with the option of becoming a teacher someday, "something I can combine with performing." Conducting is another option, she says.

Indeed, with her youth and enthusiasm, Angela seems destined for bigger things. Q

The Calimons vacationing in Boracay (from left): Theresa, Gil, Connie and Angela

RICO ...from page 2

school. From there, it was only a short step to joining his first band.

"I was 13 when Lee Esguerra asked me to join their band," he recalls. "I came up with the name—Grey Winter, a typical New Wave name. Our goal was to write a new song every rehearsal, and record it. I was the writer and the singer, behind the keyboards."

College, however, was a respite from music. Throughout his Management Economics course at the Ateneo, Blanco's energies were focused on schoolwork and playing basketball. He was also bitten by the civic spirit, becoming chairman of the Sangguniang Kabataan in his hometown of San Pedro, Laguna.

And then he heard that announcement on the radio.

A part of Rico Blanco is still the adolescent music geek who would rather be alone in his bedroom writing songs on his Portasound, or be the anonymous sideman behind his keyboards.

"To tell you the truth, I constantly dream about that," he admits. "Up to now, I'm still looking for a band that I can just play guitar and keyboard with and not have to sing. For a while, I was doing that with Sugarfree when they started. There's a part of me that wants to be behind the scenes. There was even a time when I asked the rest of the band if they could go on tour and I'd just stay in the studio. They refused."

But an equally strong part of him relishes the thought of performing.

"I'm actually enjoying it," he says. "I like trading jokes with the audience, talking to them, singing with them—I don't sing to them or for them, I sing with them."

But the other reality is that Blanco is a bona fide pop star. The showbiz press knows who he is, and speculations about his love life are grist for the movie, as well as music, press. Four years ago, when his engagement to a fiancee (whose identity he still guards closely, except to say that she is "a non-showbiz person, as they say in the movie press") fell through, he even went through a brief phase of squiring sexy starlets. How rock star is that?

In the end, however, Rivermaya fans love him for his music. Blanco's songs resonate deeply in the eternal adolescent heart. He's not kidding when he says he sings with his fans, not to or for them.

Five or six songs into Rivermaya's two-hour set, the nicotine-stained walls of Bistro '70s are sweating. The band kicks into gear as Blanco wraps his skinny torso around the mike stand, eyes closed, and leans into the chorus of "*Umaaraw, Umuulan*."

Buoyed by Japs Sergio's throbbing bass, Mike Elgar's ringing guitar chords and Mark Escueta's steady pulse beat, the crowd starts singing with him.

They know all the words. Q

Art

Life and Color, a collection of paintings and sculptures by Carlos Rocha at Nicotina Garden Pavilion, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City until Oct. 30. For details, call 551-7906 to 07.

Faint Descent presents Mm Yu's new series of drip paintings at Mag:net Gallery Paseo, Paseo Center, Paseo de Roxas corner Sedeno Sts., Makati City until Nov. 6. For details, call 817-7895.

New Works in Oil features an array of still life paintings derived from Didit Robillo van der Linden's collections of artifacts and folk art crafts from her numerous travels, until Nov. 9 at Mag:net Gallery ABS, The Loop, ELJ Center, ABS-CBN Compound, Eugenio Lopez Jr. Drive, QC. For details, call 410-0995.

Mm Yu's "Faint Descent," on view at Mag:net Gallery Paseo

Beyond Garments presents the winning entries to Paris fashion competitions as well as new designs based on a series of art videos on fashion by the Young Designers' Guild in celebration of its 10th year anniversary, until Nov. 12 at The Lobby, Mezzanine and Basement of the UP Vargas Museum, Diliman, QC.

Retrotista, a group exhibit of black and white photographs of women caught in inspiring, funny and heartwarming moments, until Nov. 12 at The Alcove, Makati Avenue, Ayala Triangle, Makati City (across the Peninsula Manila).

The annual collaboration of the country's leading private museums enters its third multi-site exhibition project with the theme **Transitions**: Exhibition schedule: Weaving Lives: The Art of Saori focuses on a unique weaving technique developed in Japan, until Jan. 15, 2005 at the Museo Pambata. A Rough Sketch presents selections from The Lopez Memorial Museum's collection of drawings and sketches until March 31, 2005. The Ateneo Art Gallery features Arturo Luz Sculptures from Oct. 27 to Dec. 14. Ayala Museum presents Crossings: Philippine Works from the Singapore Art Museum from Nov. 8 to June 12, 2005.

City Arts and Culture Office of Calbayog City will perform at the National Theater Festival

Music

The Enchanted Kingdom gets romantic on Oct. 30, 7-9 p.m. as the **Passage Band** fills the air with favorite selections from Sergio Mendes' latest album "The Ultimate Hits: Three Decades of Music" and the CD "Fallin'," both featuring hard-to-find love songs.

Revive, a fundraising concert for the benefit of the Pacemaker Bank Project of the Heart Foundation of the Philippines featuring The Dawn, Akafellas and Third Degree on Oct. 27, 8 p.m. at the Music Museum. For ticket inquiries, call Music Museum at 721-6726 or Libratto Productions at 0916-690.6399.

Onstage

Penis Talks, a sexy male revue starring Christian Vasquez, Luis Alandy, Carlo Maceda, Paolo Paraiso, Jeffrey Hidalgo, Douglas Robinson, Angelu de Leon, Jenine Desiderio, Ricci Chan, William Thio and Russel Simon, will be staged at the Music Museum on Oct. 28 directed by Joel Lamangan and written by Ricky Lee. For tickets, call Music Museum (721-0635/721-6726), DMV Entertainment at 415-0373/374-1361 and Ticketworld (891-9999).

Watch all you can for free when ***Ikatlong Tagpo*: The 2004 National Theater Festival** kicks off on Nov. 7 with a festival open house from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Cultural Center of the Philippines. Billed "*Pasinaya*," the festival open house offers an array of live previews of the 35 productions in "Ikatlong Tagpo" slated on Nov. 7-20. "*Ikatlong Tagpo*" focuses on Philippine musical theater and will highlight the achievement of Filipino performers, composers, writers, designers, producers, cultural workers and scholars in musical theater. "*Pasinaya*" will show excerpts from the different gala shows, festival premieres and revivals, children's musicals and cabaret shows. For details, call 832-1125 local 1606-1607 or 832-3681, 832-3878 and 551-7930 or visit the "Ikatlong Tagpo" website at www.culturalcenter.gov.ph/ntf.

Cinema

pelikula@titusbrandsma presents original versions of "The Manchurian Candidate" and "Alfie" plus "The Passion of Joan of Arc" (1928) by Carl Theodor Dreyer on Nov. 13 at 1 p.m. at Titus Brandsma Center, 24 Acacia St., Cubao, Quezon City. For details, call 726-6054.

.MOV International Digital Film Festival is set to stage its second edition at the SM Cinemas Cebu from Dec. 1 to 7. The digital moviefest aims to promote and advance digital filmmaking in the Philippines and to establish it as the future of Philippine cinema. The second .MOV will feature categories such as Digital World (World Digital Features), Digital Sea (Southeast Asian Digital Features), Digital Indio (Philippine Digital Features), Silvershorts (an independent short film competition), and Smart Cuts (60-second short film competition sponsored by Smart).

Food

The **Newskyhigh Restaurant** reopened recently offering exquisite and delectable Chinese cuisine served either a la carte or lauriat style. Among its bestsellers are lobsters, shrimps, lapulapu, crabs, clams, pusit and binga shell. The restaurant is located at 463 Remedios St., Malate, Manila. For reservations, call 524-1726 and 524-2765.

Dads Padre Faura introduces the **Ultimate Buffet** which offers three cuisines under one roof: Continental, Filipino and Japanese. Of the 150 dishes in the buffet, the all-time favorites are lechon de leche, grill selection from the Kamayan buffet; sushi, sashimi, ebi tempura and sukiyaki from the Saisaki buffet; and turkey, paella, roast beef and pasta from the Dads buffet. The Ultimate Buffet is priced at P495 and P395 during promo days. For reservations, call 528-1723 to 24.

"Pamilya sa Bukid" by Nani Reyes, on exhibit at Second Gallery

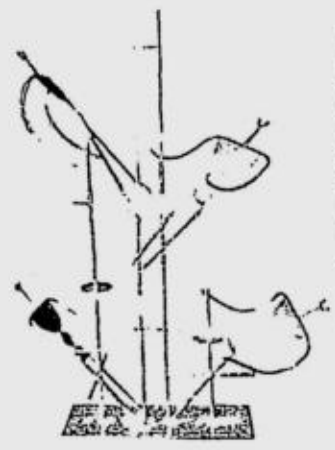
For this week's bands and schedules call:

- Hard Rock Café (893-4662-65)
- Virgin Café : QC (926-7982)
- '70s Bistro: 46 Anonas St., QC (922-0492)
- Hobbit House: 1801 Mabini St., Malate, Manila (521-7604)
- Strumm's: El Pueblo, Ortigas (637-3009)

The SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE welcomes listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements at least two weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules

Atbp

For those who want to be become entrepreneurs, **ALPS Business Training Center** is offering the following **seminars**: Oct. 30--Basic Meat Processing, Laundry and Other Detergents, Fiberglass Making, and Novelties for Christmas; Oct. 31-Balloon Business, Siopao Making, Cosmetic Products, Mold Making, Washi Egg Wrapping/Egguery. The seminars will be held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Rotary Center, Roces Avenue cor. Mother Ignacia St., QC. For inquiries, call 900-7876 or 900-0851.



"Celebration III (Circus men)," one of the featured Arturo Luz sculptures at the Ateneo Art Gallery

Sam Molina, professor emeritus of George Washington University in Washington, D.C, will conduct a three-day **workshop on digital photography** on Nov. 4-6 at Comfoods Building, Gil Puyat Avenue cor. Chino Roces, Makati. The workshop will give participants an understanding of the digital format and digital cameras. Molina will also demonstrate how to download images to a computer, how to work with scanners, and how to use image-editing software. For inquiries, call 813-7420 and 843-5341.

The Alcove Photo Gallery presents **Pangasinan Exposed**, an out-of-the-classroom workshop that will explore the limitless possibilities in the field of landscape photography to be facilitated by Jay Alonzo and Rey Ferbandos. Interested participants must have a basic knowledge in photography and camera with manual exposure control (film-based or digital). Deadline for registration is Oct. 28. For details, call 759-3371 or 892-1801.

Weddings... Get Set... Go! Bridal Fair Year 2, an exclusive gathering of wedding, debut and events suppliers slated on Nov. 6 and 7 at The Loft@Rockwell, Estrella Street cor. Rockwell Drive, Rockwell Center, Makati City. Activities include "My Funny Love Affair," a story writing contest and a seminar on "How to be an Effective Wedding Emcee." Former Tux man Paulo Clemente and The String Minstrels will perform during the fair. For details, call 546-9477.

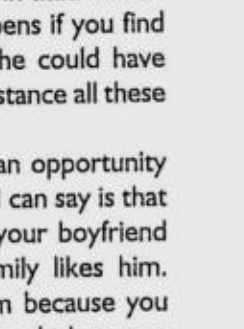
Enjoy a frightfully good time with the many thrilling **Halloween activities** lined up for children at **Discovery Suites**. On Oct. 29, 3 p.m., be transported to an uncanny dimension as the 42nd floor Columbus Room is transformed to a spine-chilling and spooky cemetery. Haunted happenings include a graveyard walk, creepy storytelling session, Halloween treats, a laser light and magic show, hair-raising song and dance numbers. For details, call 635-2222.

An exciting **Halloween weekend** awaits families at the **New World Renaissance Hotel** as it offers a tempting room package from Oct. 29 to Nov. 1. The main attraction of the Halloween weekend stay is the fun Black Cat Children's Halloween Party on Oct. 31 and Nov. 1 from 3 to 6 p.m. Children will receive a special invitation to the event should their families avail of the Halloween Holiday Room Package. There will be games, magic show, chamber of horrors, trick or treats, goodie bags and a terrifying cast of characters. Children are encouraged to come in their scariest costumes. For details, call 811-6888.

Ahead Tutorial and Review Center offers review programs for those who aspire to enroll in UST, UA&P, Mapua, San Beda, Assumption, Miriam and St. Scholastica. Review classes are held on weekends at Ahead's branches in FBR Building in Katipunan, Robinsons Galleria, SM Megamall and Annapolis, Greenhills. Reviewers have the option to register in a regular class or enroll in one-on-one review sessions. For inquiries, call 426-0034 to 36.

X-manila

Transfigure presents Ernani "Nani" Reyes' shift from abstract expressionism to figuration in his solo exhibit at the Second Gallery, 217 Doña Aurora St., Angono, Rizal until Oct. 30. For details, call 0912-6905352.

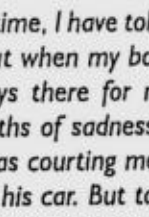


Have a thriller night at Discovery Suites

By Jess Abrera

Gutom

By Joe D' Mango



Between Love and Friendship

All I want to know is: Am I special to this friend in the way that he is special to me?

Dear Joe,

Just call me Anna. I'm a fine arts student in a long-term and happy relationship. But I am tormented right now by some feelings that I cannot explain.

While I've been in a satisfying five-year relationship, I have this friend that I have feelings for. He's special but I never told him that for fear of losing our friendship. But it sometimes feels like he has some feelings for me, too. Joe, if that is true, how does one know for sure?

My friend and I used to be classmates before we became very close friends. All this time, I have told myself that it was nothing but friendship. But when my boyfriend and I broke up, this friend was always there for me. He helped me through those three months of sadness. In fact our classmates thought that he was courting me because he would always bring me home in his car. But to me, it was just an act of generosity. Besides, we'd always go as a group. I'd often stay in the back seat with our other friends. Often I'd see him staring at me from the car's rear view mirror. When I'd catch his eye, he'd shift his glance to our other friends. He would also treat me out often and take me to places with beautiful scenery. When we were new friends, he told me how he envied my boyfriend for having a girl like me.

When my boyfriend came back to me, my friend continued to send me sweet messages that made my boyfriend jealous. He became a constant source of discord between us. While I defended him for being just a friend, deep inside I knew that I felt something for him. He has no girlfriend, and my other friends say it is probably because of me. But this friend would firmly answer in the negative. It was his choice and besides, he says, he doesn't have plans of stealing somebody else's girl. But he remains silent about his feelings. If actions do speak louder than words, what should my conclusion be?

I don't have any plans to break up with my boyfriend, for my family likes him a lot and that matters to me. All I want to know, just before graduating, is if I am special to this friend in the way that he is special to me. Joe, is this love or friendship?

Yours truly,
Anna

Dear Anna,

Sometimes the line that separates friendship and love becomes obscure because our emotion crosses beyond that which is spoken, and expresses itself openly in actions and gestures that speak more of love than friendship.

Honestly, I believe that your friend is very fond of you. It pleases him to see you happy and he takes it upon himself to be responsible for your safety. He likes to secretly stare at you because you occupy a special place in his heart. He could have had everything set out perfectly, except for one thing. He never told you what it all meant. He never said what he truly feels for you. He is a classic example of a man who has a very big heart but a very small voice.

Anna, I know that you have a feeling that he likes you too. You just need affirmation that what you feel is true. I don't see anything wrong in that. What I am afraid of is what happens if you find out that it is true, that he could have been loving you from a distance all these years.

You could be missing an opportunity to be fair to yourself. All I can say is that you shouldn't stay with your boyfriend simply because your family likes him. You should stay with him because you love him. But if you are caught between your strong feelings for your best friend and your commitment to your boyfriend then you've got a lot of thinking to do. Remember, love sometimes sneaks up from the most surprising places at the most unexpected time. Let us just make sure that we are able to make sensible decisions when that happens because sometimes it is the love by accident and not the love that was contemplated that takes hold of our hearts and keeps it forever.

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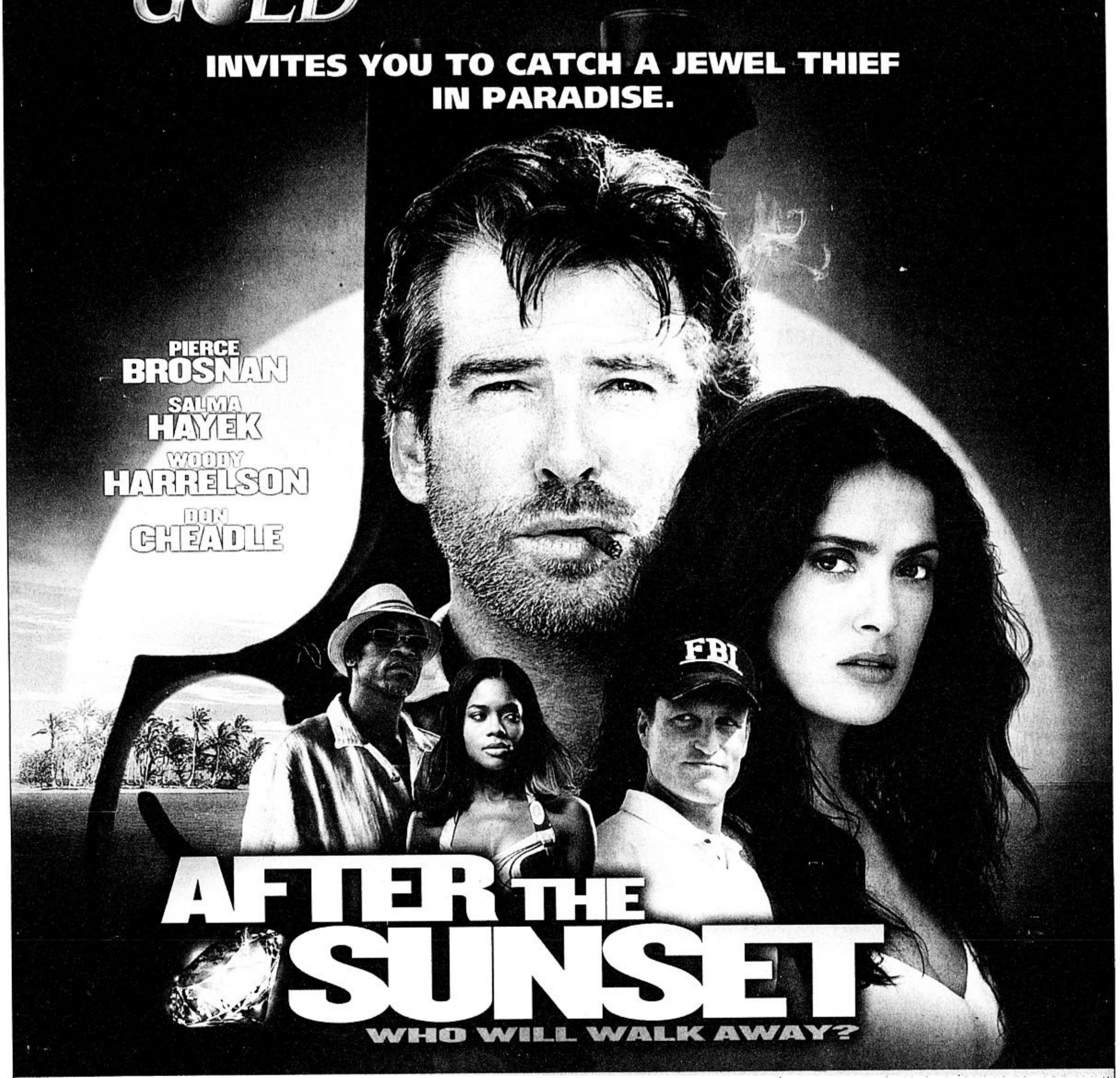

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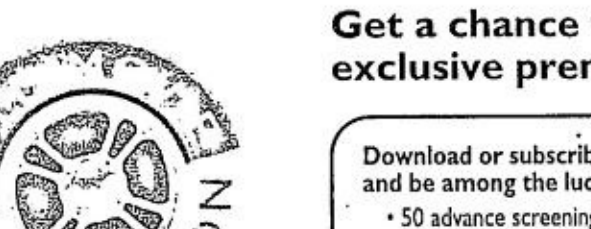

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'Taba' cops must read 'The Purpose Driven Life'

By Christian Esguerra

"TABA" or rogue cops in retraining carry a new weapon.

It's not a gun, or a pocket-size bomb. It's a book to whip their character into shape.

'TABA' COPS/ A21

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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Congress vows to pass 3 tax bills by yearend

By Christine O. Avendaño and Cynthia D. Balana

MINDFUL that the country faces a credit downgrade if Congress does not pass new tax measures, the Senate and the House of Representatives have agreed to approve before the end of the year three of the eight tax measures

CONGRESS/ A4

'This is too much,' says ex-AFP chief

Santiago, 2 retired generals deny ₱300-M 'pabaon'

By Christian V. Esguerra and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THIS IS too much.

Crying foul over the barrage of publicity about alleged corruption in the Armed Forces, former Chief of Staff Gen. Dionisio Santiago yesterday warned that critics of the military could end up destroying the whole organization.

"This is too much already. They're trying to destroy the institution," Santiago told the INQUIRER.

"All other institutions, media and Congress included, have their own share of bad eggs but we should never destroy the institution," he said. "We should isolate the bad eggs, punish them and improve the institution."

Santiago, who served as chief of staff for three months last year before retiring, was referring to the controversy now battering the military triggered by allegations that former AFP Comptroller Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia had amassed tens of millions of pesos in unexplained wealth.

The INQUIRER, in a story yesterday quoting both active and retired officers, said outgoing chiefs of staff received "*pabaon*" or retirement benefits ranging from P100 million to P300 million.

Malacañang, reacting to the report, said that such a practice was immoral and it was determined to stop corruption in the military.

"There's absolutely no truth to that," Santiago said. "Just imagine if four chiefs of staff each received P300 million. That would amount to P1.2 billion. I don't think even the most cunning crook could squeeze that money from the AFP."

Santiago said he had no problem with the ongoing House inquiry into Garcia's alleged ill-gotten wealth but stressed that the congressional hearings should be

THIS IS/ A22

ERIK ARAZAS

SPECTER OF HUNGER?
South Beach Diet casualties or the specter of hunger? Nope, they're halloween masks for sale on Arellano Street, Manila.

General doesn't own resort, says father-in-law

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMANGAS, Iloilo—It is not Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia but the family of his wife that owns a P15-million three-hectare resort in this town.

And the house in Ohio in the United States does not belong to the beleaguered general, either, but is actually owned by the older sister of Clarita Depakakibo-Garcia, the general's wife.

These were the assertions of Clarita's father, Quillion Depakakibo Sr., and her older brother, Feneno, in defense of their relatives who are at the center of a high-profile controversy involving Clarita's husband.

"The resort and my family's land are the product of my hard work," Quillion told the INQUIRER.

Garcia's in-laws drew a portrait of Garcia far different from the stony, sometimes defiant façade the general showed while being grilled by legislators last week during House hearings on his alleged unexplained wealth.

"Good-natured and soft-spoken" was how Feneno described Garcia.

Also, his brother-in-law was "simple and did not act like other generals" who had convoys of bodyguards tagging along, Feneno said.

Quillion, 86, said he and his family had set up a corporation instead of dividing the land among his six children who, except for Clarita, 54, and Feneno, 56, are based in the United States.

"We all had put capital in the resort," added Feneno, a retired American soldier, who was interviewed along with his father

GENERAL/ A22

Abaya: AFP comptroller should be a civilian

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

WAR HORSES should remain holding the fort, and jobs in the Armed Forces of the Philippines like the comptrollership, which embattled Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia used to hold, should be given over to civilians, according to a reorganization plan of the outgoing AFP chief of staff.

Gen. Narciso Abaya, who is retiring on Oct. 29, said he was leaving behind the reorganization plan that would promote civilian employees to positions once held by generals such as logistical coordinator and supply procurement supervisor.

In the wake of the inquiry into Garcia's alleged ill-gotten wealth, Abaya said military personnel would soon be restricted to matters of warfare.

"We can only hire warriors for the Armed Forces because it's very difficult to hire a sergeant to do a different job," he told reporters during the 106th foundation anniversary of the Philippine Military Academy on Saturday at Fort del Pilar in Baguio City.

"I had a cook with the rank of technical sergeant. A technical sergeant takes home a gross pay of P18,000 a month. He cooks food in our quarters. You can get a civilian maid who knows how to cook and you can pay her P5,000," Abaya said.

He said it was expensive to have a sergeant do a cook's job considering that a

ABAYA/ A22

US think tank wrong in defining GMA leadership as weak

By Amando Doronila

FOR WANT of something better to do, the conservative Washington-based think tank, Heritage Foundation, has appointed itself the jury to pronounce judgment on the quality of leadership of foreign countries. The latest focus of the foundation's assessment is President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Dana Dillion, a senior Heritage policy analyst, wrote a scathing commentary published on Oct. 7 by the Asian Wall Street, which said that Ms Arroyo was the "weakest leader in the region."

ANALYSIS

The commentary was the latest in the wave of fallout that had descended upon the Philippines as a result of Manila's decision to withdraw the Filipino contingent from Iraq in exchange for the life of a Filipino driver who had been held hostage by Iraqi militants.

The United States and Australia, who have vowed not to bow to terrorist blackmail, had condemned the Philippine capitulation and dropped hints of retaliation against Manila for breaking ranks with the "coalition of the willing."

Thus, it appears that the Heritage Foundation has taken upon itself the task of delivering the message that although the United States has not retaliated by cutting aid to the Philippines, Washington has not forgotten the episode and will not allow Manila to get away with its heresy.

US THINK/ A21

RP midwives, nurses still in demand in Britain

By TJ Burgonio

HAVING witnessed their "care and compassion" for the sick up close, the British minister of state for trade, investments and foreign affairs is seeking to recruit more Filipino nurses in view of the growing health care industry in London.

Before flying out of Manila after a three-day visit last week, British Minister Douglas Alexander said he had the "greatest respect and admiration" for the Filipino nurses and midwives working in the United Kingdom.

"Not only because I have two young children myself—a daughter who is 5 months old and a son who is 2 1/2 years old—both of whom were delivered by Philippine midwives," he happily related at a press briefing.

"My family owes a great debt of gratitude to the people of the Philippines. Not only for the technical expertise of nurses and midwives, but also for the care, compassion and concern shown to me and my wife when our children were born," he added.

Alexander said he called on President Macapagal-Arroyo on Thursday and expressed gratitude that his government, which is seeking to recruit more nurses to support the expansion of its health service, had found a "willing partner" in the Philippines.

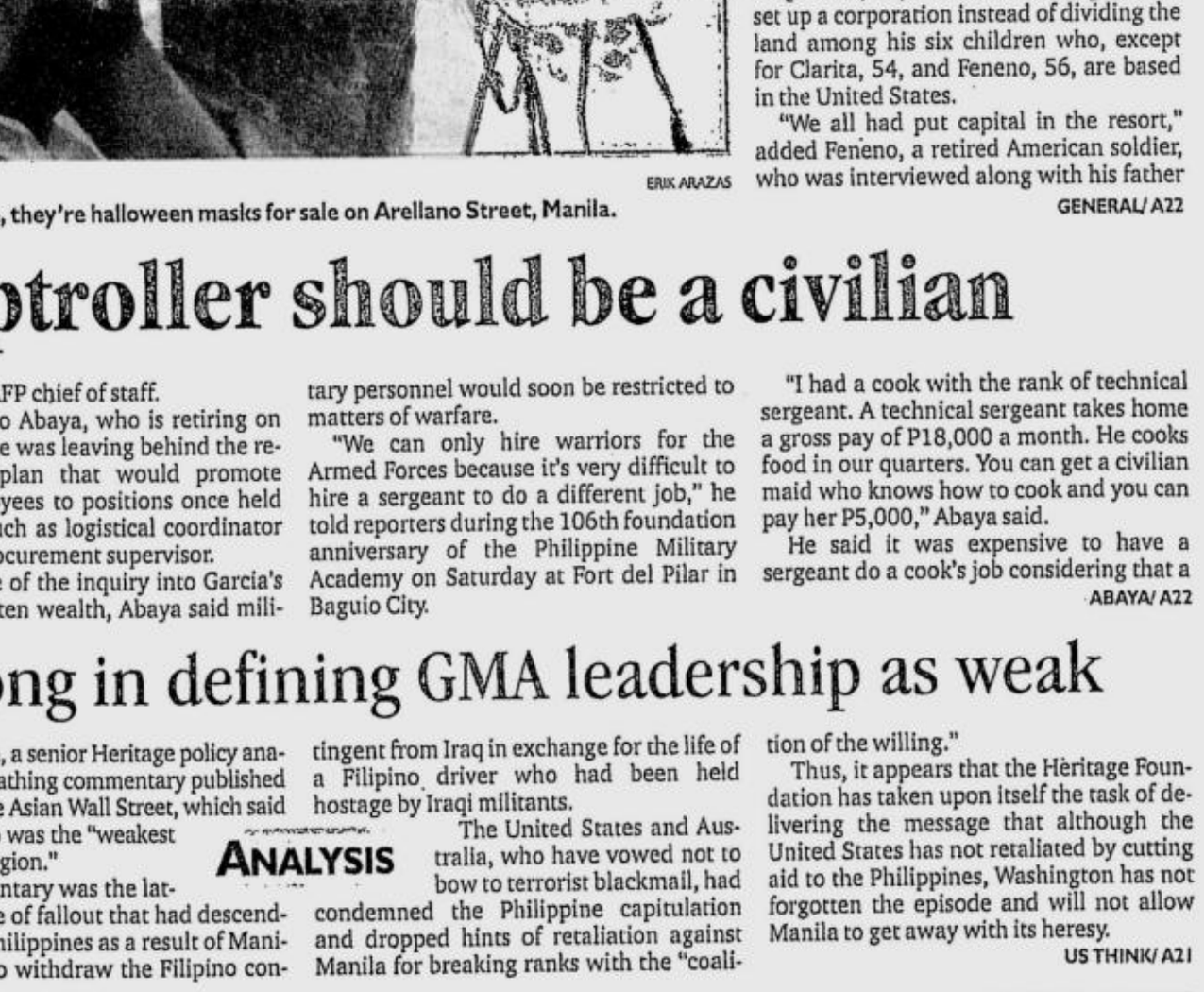
"She assured me that there would be a continued expansion of nursing education here in the Philippines, to ensure that both our countries benefit from what I think has been an exciting development in recent years," he said.

Alexander voiced the hope that the Filipinos who work in London away from their families in Manila "enjoyed the experience of working" there.

An estimated 95,000 Filipinos, including at least 15,000 nurses, were working in the UK as of December 2003. They make up the majority of the foreign nurses there, officials said.

The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration reported that some 8,000 nurses

RP MIDWIVES/ A4



ERIK ARAZAS

HAVING a taxi meter calibrated can tax one's patience to the limit as cabs fill President Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard in Pasay Sunday, the second day of the calibration period in three areas on the boulevard. From the flag-down rate of P25, the first 500 meters will cost P5 more and passengers will pay an additional 50 centavos or P2.50 for every succeeding 300 meters.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MONDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2004

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONTPAGE

Text us your feedback: Inquirer news name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The Batanes Group of Islands and the Babuyan and Calayan Group of Islands will experience stormy weather. Extreme Northern Luzon will have rains and gusty winds. The rest of Northern Luzon will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rains.
SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/10/25/04

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Partly Cloudy

Solons belittle CIA connection claim

By Christine O. Avendaño

COLLEAGUES of Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. yesterday pooh-poohed the minority leader's claim that the United States may have had a hand in leaking to the Philippine media the report on former AFP Comptroller Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia's alleged unexplained wealth in the US.

At least two senators described as "highly speculative" and even "fictional" Pimentel's disclosure that the US Central Intelligence Agency had leaked the Garcia story to the media because Washington was angry over Manila's decision to pull the Philippine contingent out of Iraq in July.

"The CIA's influence (here) is overrated," said one of the senators, both of whom asked that they not be named. "The situation 50 years ago is different from that obtaining now."

The second senator agreed, saying that in the past, the CIA was believed to have intervened in the internal affairs of some nations. But, the senator said, the US Congress had been able to limit the intelligence agency's scope of operations through the years.

He said that "it was no secret that the Americans were put off by the decision of President Macapagal-Arroyo to pull out the Philippine troops in Iraq to appease Iraqi insurgents who had kidnapped and threatened to behead Filipino truck driver Angelo de la Cruz.

Arroyo's decision, though largely applauded in the Philippines, earned the ire of some members of the US-led "coalition of the willing," particularly the US and Australia, since the Chief Executive had committed to support the invasion and eventual occupation of Iraq.

But to venture that the US had leaked the information on Garcia was "speculative" and even "unfair," the senator said. The senator said it was even "*kwentong kutsero* (a tall tale)."

The senator noted that even Pimentel had said he did not have any proof on the claim of his informant.

Pimentel told reporters three days ago that an informant had told him the CIA had a hand in leaking certain details of the alleged dollar-salting by Garcia, who is being investigated for amassing unexplained wealth both here and in the United States.

Garcia is being investigated by the military, the Office of the Ombudsman and two House committees following the report that two of his sons were stopped at a US airport last year for carrying an undeclared $100,000 in cash.

US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone on Saturday said he had tossed aside his copy of the INQUIRER, which reported Pimentel's statements.

"It did not make sense to me," Ricciardone told reporters during the celebration of the 106th foundation anniversary of the Philippine Military Academy. "I cannot imagine how anyone can see a CIA connection."

Malacañang has dismissed Pimentel's claim, saying it did not matter where the information on Garcia's alleged unexplained wealth came from.

STREET CHILDREN'S FRIEND
Princess Caroline of Monaco arrived yesterday for a four-day visit to see for herself the work Amade Phils./Virlanie Foundation, which she supports, is doing with street children. She will be the guest of honor at a fund-raising dinner tonight at the Shangri-La Hotel in Makati City. ROGER MARGALLO

Meet the man who would try Maj. Gen. Garcia

By Christian V. Esguerra

HE MAY end up being tried by his juniors but that won't guarantee Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia, accused of enriching himself while in office, an acquittal.

For one, the top choice for the post of court-martial president, Maj. Gen. Emmanuel Teodosio, is a "strict disciplinarian, a professional officer" with a reputation for adhering to the rules no matter whose shoes he steps on, Police Director Arturo Lomibao said yesterday.

Knowing Teodosio, now chief of the Armed Forces Central Command, Lomibao said seniority would not be a factor in the military court's decision.

Teodosio is the most senior of the eight officers being considered to compose the court-martial board. Still, he was an underclassman of Garcia at the Philippine Military Academy and this has raised speculation the juniors would not be tough enough when dealing with a senior.

Lomibao heads the police Criminal Investigation and Detection Group and was Teodosio's classmate in PMA Class 1972.

"He was really a good disciplinarian even when we were still cadets, a no ifs, no buts type of officer," Lomibao told the INQUIRER. "He'll certainly apply the rules strictly on Garcia."

The beleaguered Garcia belongs to PMA Class '71.

Spotless record

Teodosio, former commanding general of the Philippine Marines, would also be a good choice to head the court-martial because of his "unblemished" military career, said Lomibao.

The task of constituting the military tribunal rests with President Macapagal-Arroyo, who can pick at least five or even all of the eight officers to compose it, military officials said.

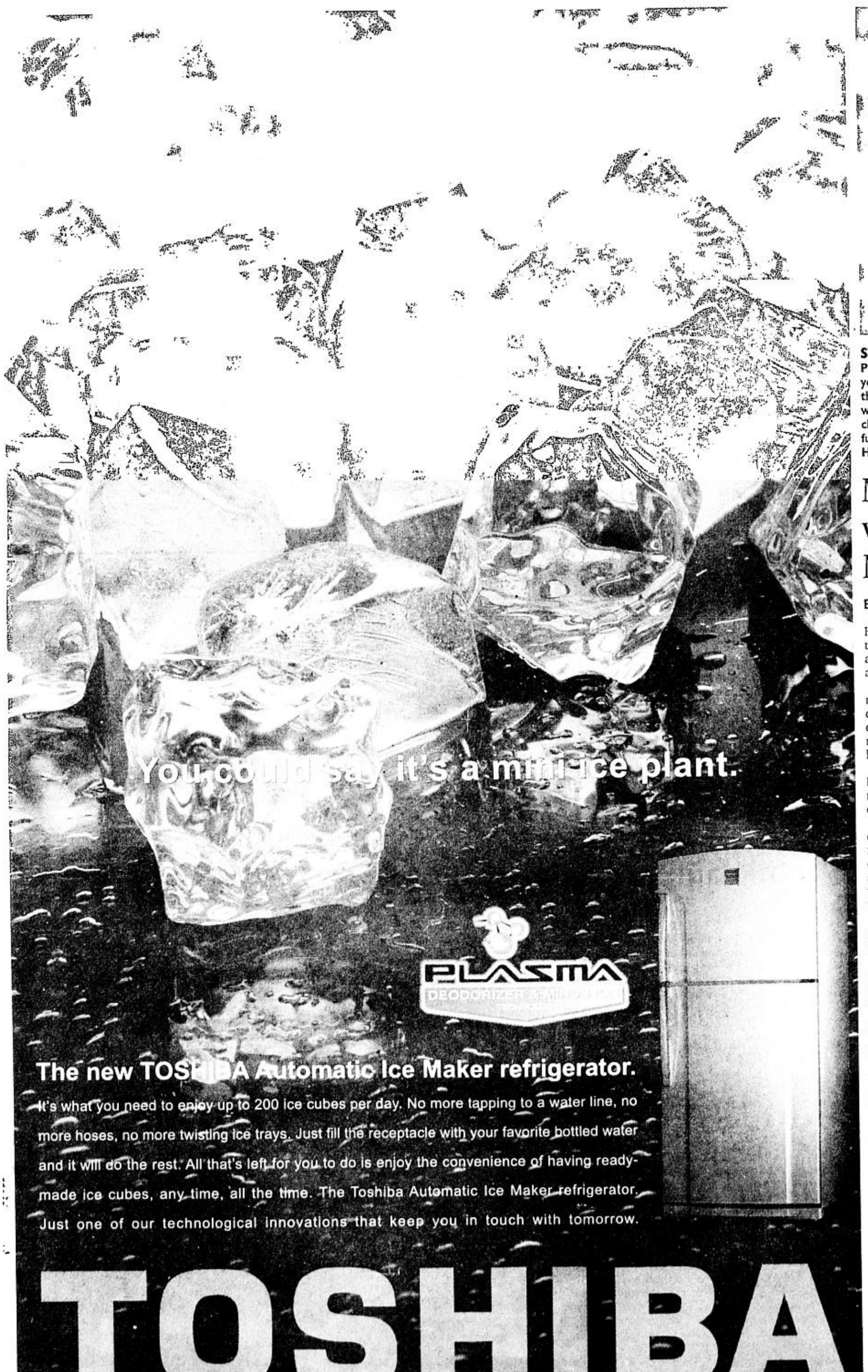
Once convened, it will try Garcia for three violations of the Articles of War: fraud against the government, conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman, and neglect and disorder to the prejudice of good order and military discipline.

Maj. Gen. Pedro Cabuay, another key candidate for the court, is just as "competent and professional" as Teodosio, Lomibao said.

"I've known him for a long time as an erudite commander, one of the few non-PMAyers who are very well-respected within the military," he said of Cabuay, commander of the Army's 2nd Infantry Division.

Before assuming his present assignment, Cabuay headed the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the military unit where he "grew up," Lomibao said.

The CIDG chief said he got to know Cabuay during the long years they spent in joint police and military intelligence operations.



Lacson won't apologize for statement

SEN. PANFILO Lacson yesterday denied he had amassed unexplained wealth and refused to apologize for his statement that some congressmen were just as guilty of taking kickbacks from suppliers and contractors, as has been alleged about Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia.

"If people feel alluded to, that's their problem," Lacson said in a statement issued by his office, which cited excerpts from his interview yesterday over Radio Mindanao Network.

The senator said he was merely drawing "parallelisms between allegations against Garcia and some congressmen," which drew the ire of Majority Leader Rep. Prospero Nograles and Deputy Speaker Gerry Salappudin.

Lacson had made the statement on Friday in the face of the House probe of his "mistah" Garcia who, like him, belongs to Philippine Military Academy Class 1971.

Garcia is being investigated by the House, the Ombudsman and the Armed Forces for alleged unexplained wealth and properties here and abroad.

The other day, Nograles said Lacson was "perched in the same tree" as Garcia because the senator had also been accused of amassing wealth by the US government.

Nograles said that based on official documents from the US attorney general, Lacson had maintained during the period 1996-2001 several accounts in American banks amounting to $1.4 million.

"That wealth was a figment of the imagination of Victor Corpus, Mary Ong, Mawanay and company," Lacson said.

He added that the bank account numbers these people had given to the authorities were proven to be "fictitious," and that the "(bank) amounts were too mind-boggling to be true."

Christine O. Avendaño

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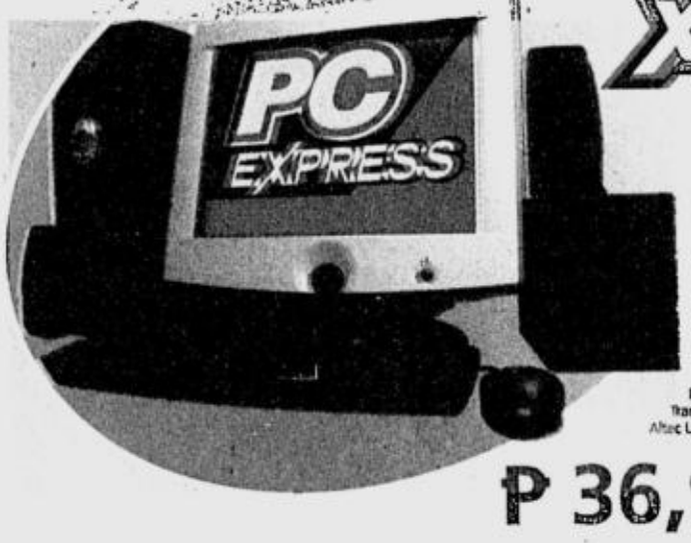

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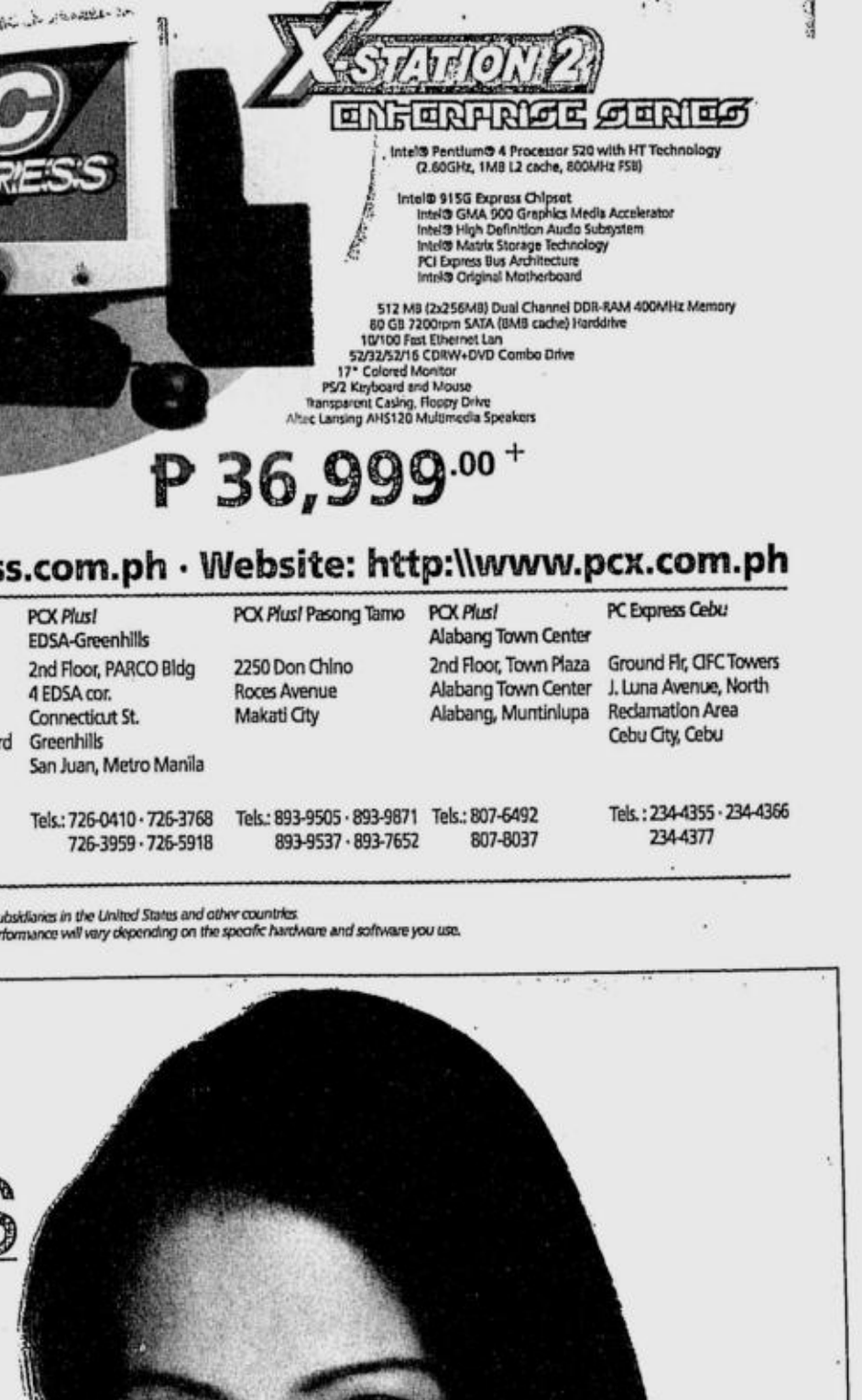

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From page A1

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RP midwives, nurses still in demand in Britain

From page A1

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Less demand for caregivers

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She also warned the public against employment offers for caregivers in the United States and Japan, because the prospects of landing jobs there remained dim.

Trade partners

Alexander also met with Trade Secretary Cesar Purisima, Energy Secretary Vincent Perez and Philippine National Police Director General Edgar Aglipay to discuss ways to boost bilateral cooperation on trade, energy and law enforcement.

"The British government is determined to continue promoting the Philippines as a location for inward investments and trade in the years to come," he said.

Trade between the two countries amounts to more than $2 billion a year. A third of the country's investments over the past 10 years had come from the United Kingdom, one of the top three European importers of Philippine goods.

The UK has major investments in the country, concentrated in power, energy, agri-business, transport, water and financial services. There are currently between 180 and 200 British companies doing business in the Philippines.

War on terror

"I took the opportunity when I met the chief of police to congratulate him on the recent arrest [of terror suspects] that had taken place as part of the steps taken by the Philippines to meet the threat of terrorism," Alexander said, referring to Aglipay.

Alexander, who granted over $1 million worth of counterterrorism assistance to the PNP, said he also congratulated the President for making counterterrorism a high priority in her agenda.

"The Philippines is a valued partner, not just of the United Kingdom, but of many nations as we seek to confront cooperatively the challenges of international terrorism," he had told reporters on Thursday night.

Alexander also visited a training center manned by British, American and Australian officers, which trains local policemen on how to preempt and counter terror attacks, among other things.

"As I was able to discuss with a number of ministers today, I leave with a very clear impression of the determination of the Philippine government to continue to engage in the war on terror," he said. *With Jerome Aning*

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She also warned the public against employment offers for caregivers in the United States and Japan, because the prospects of landing jobs there remained dim.

Trade partners

Alexander also met with Trade Secretary Cesar Purisima, Energy Secretary Vincent Perez and Philippine National Police Director General Edgar Aglipay to discuss ways to boost bilateral cooperation on trade, energy and law enforcement.

"The British government is determined to continue promoting the Philippines as a location for inward investments and trade in the years to come," he said.

Trade between the two countries amounts to more than $2 billion a year. A third of the country's investments over the past 10 years had come from the United Kingdom, one of the top three European importers of Philippine goods.

The UK has major investments in the country, concentrated in power, energy, agri-business, transport, water and financial services. There are currently between 180 and 200 British companies doing business in the Philippines.

War on terror

"I took the opportunity when I met the chief of police to congratulate him on the recent arrest [of terror suspects] that had taken place as part of the steps taken by the Philippines to meet the threat of terrorism," Alexander said, referring to Aglipay.

Alexander, who granted over $1 million worth of counterterrorism assistance to the PNP, said he also congratulated the President for making counterterrorism a high priority in her agenda.

"The Philippines is a valued partner, not just of the United Kingdom, but of many nations as we seek to confront cooperatively the challenges of international terrorism," he had told reporters on Thursday night.

Alexander also visited a training center manned by British, American and Australian officers, which trains local policemen on how to preempt and counter terror attacks, among other things.

"As I was able to discuss with a number of ministers today, I leave with a very clear impression of the determination of the Philippine government to continue to engage in the war on terror," he said. *With Jerome Aning*

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DFA: New passports to ease travel woes

WOULDN'T you rather breeze through the immigration counters at airports abroad and avoid being subjected to embarrassing, lengthy questioning by immigration officers suspicious of your Philippine passport?

With this, officials of the Department of Foreign Affairs justified the 120 percent increase in the cost of a new biometric-enabled Philippine passport from the current P500 to P1,100.

"The fee should be reasonably proportionate to the technology that will be adopted," said Emelinda Lee-Pineda, manager of the DFA's machine-readable passport and visa program.

The new passports, which will be issued beginning the first quarter of 2005, will incorporate biometrics and additional security features such as palm prints, a 2-D bar code and digital photos, among other things.

Pineda stressed the hiked fee was meant to cover the cost of production of the new passports and not to raise revenues for the DFA.

The project proponent, BCA International Corp., is investing $50.3 million in the project under a build-operate-transfer scheme, she said.

"You will spend that huge amount of money and you won't recover it?" Pineda said.

She said the government was not investing anything in the project. "This is at no cost to the government." *TJ Burgonio*

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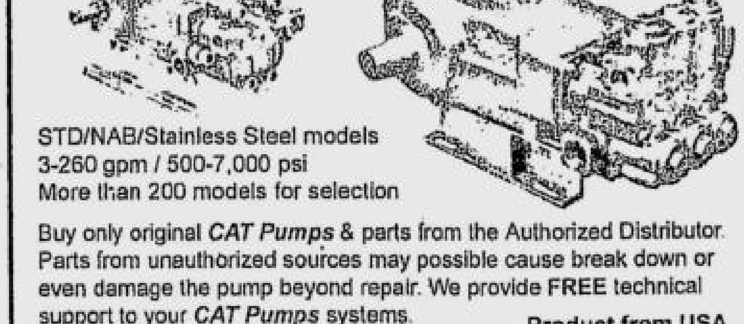

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Justice secretary bares plot on his life

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Groups in this city and Binondo, Manila, have reportedly put a P2-million price on the head of Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez.

Gonzalez said in a radio interview here yesterday that military intelligence reports on the assassination plot were relayed to him over a week ago.

He said broadcaster Rey Langit also revealed the plot over his radio program in Manila.

"I learned about it from the military but I kept it to myself. I don't know why Rey Langit announced it over the radio," Gonzalez said.

Gonzalez revealed the plot in an interview over dyLA-Cebu.

He was asked his reaction to the plan of Assistant Regional State Prosecutor Vicente Mañalac to quit as one of the prosecutors in the Arbet Sta. Ana-Yongco murder case.

When told about this, Gonzalez mentioned the plot against him.

"It might also be the reason why somebody told me that I had a two-million price on my head... but I don't care," he said.

Gonzalez said he did not really know why anyone would want him dead.

Asked if the recent bust of a multibillion-peso shabu laboratory in Mandaue City might have something to do with it, he said he did not want to speculate.

Gonzalez would only say he was told it was the "Binondo and Cebu group" that was after him.

Gonzalez said he did not report the matter to the police but he relayed the information to the Department of Justice security group which gave him an additional backup vehicle.

"You can be fatalistic about these things but it also good to take precautions," he said.

Free Pacificador mulls comeback

SAN JOSE, Antique—Shut out of power for 18 years, former Assemblyman Arturo Pacificador is eyeing a political comeback, now that he is a free man.

Pacificador said his recent acquittal in the murder of former Antique Gov. Evelio Javier has bolstered the chances he will run for office in 2007.

"Anything is possible for a politician," Pacificador told the INQUIRER.

The pronouncement was a turnaround from the statement he made during last May's elections. After poll results showed him trailing his two rivals in the vice gubernatorial race, he told the INQUIRER that he was retiring from politics to "serve Antiqueños in my private capacity."

Pacificador said his plans will be determined "by the people." If there was any hindrance to his plan, it would be his age, which is 74, he said.

A lawyer, Pacificador said his immediate plan is to go into private practice in Panay and, if there were offers, to be a legal consultant to business firms.

Pacificador was third to now Vice Gov. Rhodora Cadiao and former provincial board member Eric Otayde in the Antique vice gubernatorial race last May.

He had run for Congress and for governor in 1995 and 2001, respectively, but also lost.

Nestor P. Burgos Jr., PDI Visayas Bureau

Family planning deal worth P50M

HOW MUCH is a change in attitude worth?

Approximately P50 million, if the Department of Health achieves its goal of making a slow but sure change in Filipino couples' attitude toward family planning through the advocacy of a Catholic charismatic group.

Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit said Couples for Christ was working hard to "educate thousands and train hundreds of trainers" in the natural family planning methods that the government is promoting.

The CFC, which obtained the P50-million contract to push natural family planning methods without a bidding, has spent P15 million on the initial campaign.

Dayrit said the group was asking for the release of another P11 million.

In its report to the DOH on Oct. 15, the CFC said it had graduated 350 of the targeted 1,600 trainers who would teach the family planning methods to other members and in turn produce more family planning trainers.

It has also conducted 34 natural family planning sessions, 10 health workers' lectures, and four chastity formation and fertility awareness programs. The CFC has also held 10 regional and strategic meetings and five launching events.

Some legislators and reproductive health awareness advocates, however, have complained the P50-million CFC deal was illegal and unethical. For one thing, there was no bidding.

But Dayrit defended the deal as both practical and aboveboard.

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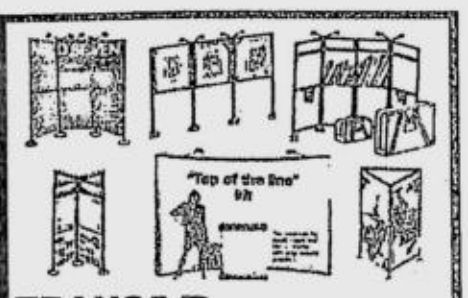
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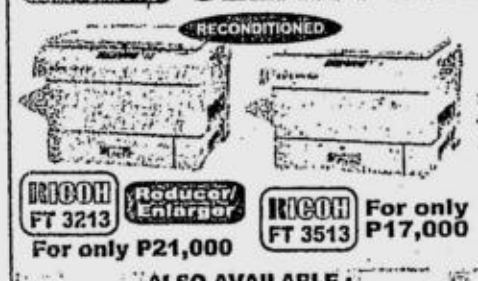
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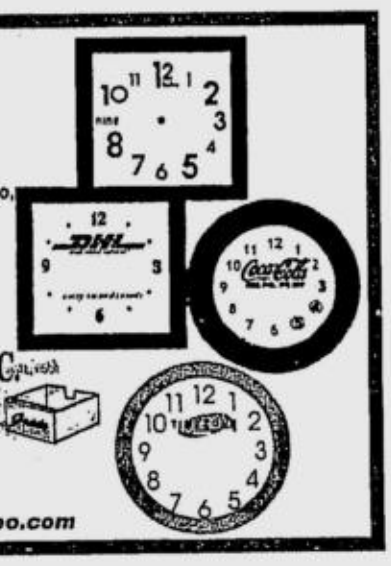
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Rethink gov't transfer plan, solon urges GMA

By Cynthia D. Balana

HOUSE Deputy Speaker for Mindanao Gerry Salapuddin yesterday asked President Macapagal-Arroyo to reconsider her plan to transfer some government departments to regions outside Metro Manila.

"The decisive action of the President to transfer these offices is laudable and popular, but may not be practicable," Salapuddin said.

"From the economic standpoint, where will the funds come from as this is not provided for in the reenacted budget of 2003; not to mention the looming fiscal crisis the government is confronted with?" he asked.

The President's plan involves moving the Department of Tourism to Cebu, the Department of Land Reform to Iloilo, the Department of Agriculture to Davao, the Department of National Defense to Zamboanga and the Department of Public Works and Highways to the Bicol region.

Salapuddin said the transfers would dislocate the employees of the departments concerned.

He said it would also be difficult for those who had to transact business with the different departments to have to travel to the different locations.

"The [proposed] setup is not economically practical. The President and the department secretaries concerned [would also] have to spend more time and money for travel," he said.

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, October 25, 2004
30th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Eph 4:32-5:8
Gospel: Lk 13:10-17

Jesus was teaching in a synagogue on the Sabbath and a crippled woman was there. An evil spirit had kept her bent for eighteen years so that she could not straighten up at all. On seeing her, Jesus called her and said, "Woman, you are freed from your infirmity." Then he laid his hands upon her and immediately she was made straight and praised God.

But the ruler of the synagogue was indignant because Jesus had performed this healing on the Sabbath day and he said to the people, "There are six days in which to work; come on those days to be healed and not on the Sabbath."

But the Lord replied, "You hypocrites! Everyone of you unties his ox or his donkey on the Sabbath and leads it out of the barn to give it water. And here you have a daughter of Abraham whom Satan had bound for eighteen years. Should she not be freed from her bonds on the Sabbath?"

When Jesus said this, all his opponents felt ashamed. But the people rejoiced at the many wonders that happened through him.

Commentary

The Pharisees are being trounced again in today's reading; they are the whipping-boys of the New Testament! Why does the Church keep putting them before us, day after day? Because, I presume, they (or we) are still here!

A crippled woman attended the synagogue. Let's watch people's eyes. Jesus "saw her." He had eyes for the poor, for people who were suffering—unlike the rich man to whom Lazarus was invisible. The Pharisees had eyes too: but only for breaches of their rules. The ruler of the synagogue was furious that Jesus had healed on the Sabbath (technically it was "work," and work was forbidden on the Sabbath). He couldn't look at Jesus, he couldn't meet his eyes; he addressed the people with words meant for Jesus, for he lacked courage to speak to him face to face. But Jesus certainly looked at him when he said, or perhaps shouted; "You hypocrites!" And then his reasoning was so compelling that I can't imagine that synagogue ruler looking anywhere but at the ground in shame. The absence of compassion in their religion was never so clear. It's no wonder they came to fear and hate him. And it's no wonder they encompassed his death. Violence is the reaction of people who can't look you in the eye.

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REMEDIAL LAW (CRIMINAL PROCEDURE)—Subsidiary liability of employer—Under Article 103 of the Revised Penal Code, employers are subsidiarily liable for the adjudicated civil liabilities of their employees in the event of the latter's insolvency. The provisions of the Revised Penal Code on subsidiary liability—Articles 102 and 103—are deemed written into the judgments in the cases to which they are applicable. Thus, in the dispositive portion of its decision, the trial court need not expressly pronounce the subsidiary liability of the employer. To allow employers to dispute the civil liability fixed in a criminal case would enable them to amend, nullify or defeat a final judgment rendered by a competent court. By the same token, to allow them to appeal the final criminal conviction of their employees without the latter's consent would also result in improperly amending, nullifying or defeating the judgment. The decision convicting an employee in a criminal case is binding and conclusive upon the employer not only with regard to the former's civil liability, but also with regard to its amount. The liability of an employer cannot be separated from that of the employee. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Panganiban, First Division, Philippine Rabbit Bus Lines, Inc. vs People, G. R. No. 147703, April 14, 2004] BY R. B. VERA

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The Wisdom of Ayurveda

Ayurveda is the traditional Indian medical system of healing that uses a holistic approach in the treatment of various diseases including diabetes. Derived from the Sanskrit words *Ayus* meaning life and *Veda* or knowledge, this healing method cares not just for the body but the senses, mind, and soul as well. Modern medicine has its roots in *Ayurveda*, thanks to the exchange of knowledge between Indian and Western physicians in the 16th century. This therapeutic practice identified *Madhumeha*, the Sanskrit word for diabetes mellitus, during the 5th century. By then, *Ayurveda* had already developed natural treatments for this chronic disease. In fact, the herbal formula for Cogent db+ was discovered among other *Ayurvedic* texts, written on a centuries-old palm leaf manuscript.

9 Herbs: The Synergy of Healing

The ancient formula for Cogent db+ tablets contains 9 herbs that naturally possess potent anti-diabetic, anti-inflammatory, rejuvenative, blood purificatory, immunological, and anti-oxidant properties.

Unlike other available supplements, Cogent db+ uses neem tree *(Azadirachta indica)*, Indian gooseberry *(Phyllanthus emblica)*, turmeric *(Curcuma longa)*, fenugreek *(Trigonella foenum graecum)*, country borage *(Rotula aquatica)*, black plum *(Syzygium cumini)*, belleric myrobalan *(Terminalia bellerica)*, Myrodealan chebulic *(Terminalia chebula)*, and small caltrop *(Tribulus terrestris)*. When combined, they provide a unique remedy for diabetic patients. Cogent db+ could arrest the progress of pancreatic damage and repair the damaged pancreatic beta cells, and prevent long-term diabetic complications in the kidneys, nervous system, eyes, heart, and blood vessels. It is this synergy of natural elements that provides the holistic healing of Cogent db+.

11 Years of Proven Efficacy & Safety

When the original 3000-year old *Ayurveda* treatment written on an ancient palm leaf scroll was discovered, Cybele Herbal Laboratories Ltd. in India conducted initial clinical trials and certified its potency and efficacy. For 11 years, Cogent db+ has been thoroughly tested for its effectiveness and safety. After undergoing clinical evaluation at various medical institutions in India, Malaysia, China, Australia, Russia, and Sudan, the scientific findings have been published in several respected journals.

To summarize the publication from the United States Journal of Alternative and Complementary Medicine 2002; 8(4): 445-457: "People with type 2 diabetes may gain better control of their diabetes by taking Cogent db+ in addition to their oral diabetes medication". In this study, it was found that diabetic patients who took Cogent db+ had significantly lower fasting blood glucose, post-meal blood glucose, glycated hemoglobin and insulin levels. All scientific publications on Cogent db+ are available in the IBIDS database of the National Institute of Health, Office of the Dietary Supplements in the USA. The manufacturing plant of Cybele Herbal Laboratories has an approval rating from the Therapeutic Goods Administration of Australia and the GMP certificate from the Government of India. Cybele strictly follows the HACCP standards of the World Health Organization, a true sign of the product's reliability.

Solving the Root Cause of the Problem

Based on the clinical findings of several medical institutions, Cogent db+ works directly on the main cause of diabetes, i.e., the repair of the damaged pancreatic cells thereby stimulating insulin production. As a result of this, Cogent db+ provides several benefits for diabetics like enhanced tissue response to insulin absorption, lowering of triglycerides and cholesterol, reduction and normalization of blood glucose, and control of long-term complications of type 2 diabetes, without any side effects. As further evidence, Cogent db+ tablets increase and sustain energy levels, reliably and effectively promoting general well-being. It is this holistic approach to total wellness that provides a more effective treatment.

Restoring Hope for a Healthy Tomorrow

To all those suffering from diabetes, there is now a real reason to have hope. As an herbal dietary supplement, Cogent db+ has proven benefits that pass strict scientific scrutiny. Since its introduction into the market, it has become a top-seller in India, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Russia, Japan, and Australia. Soon, it will be giving hope to diabetics in the United Kingdom, USA, Europe, and New Zealand. As a treatment for type 2 diabetes founded on an ancient healing system, Cogent db+ has passed the test of time.

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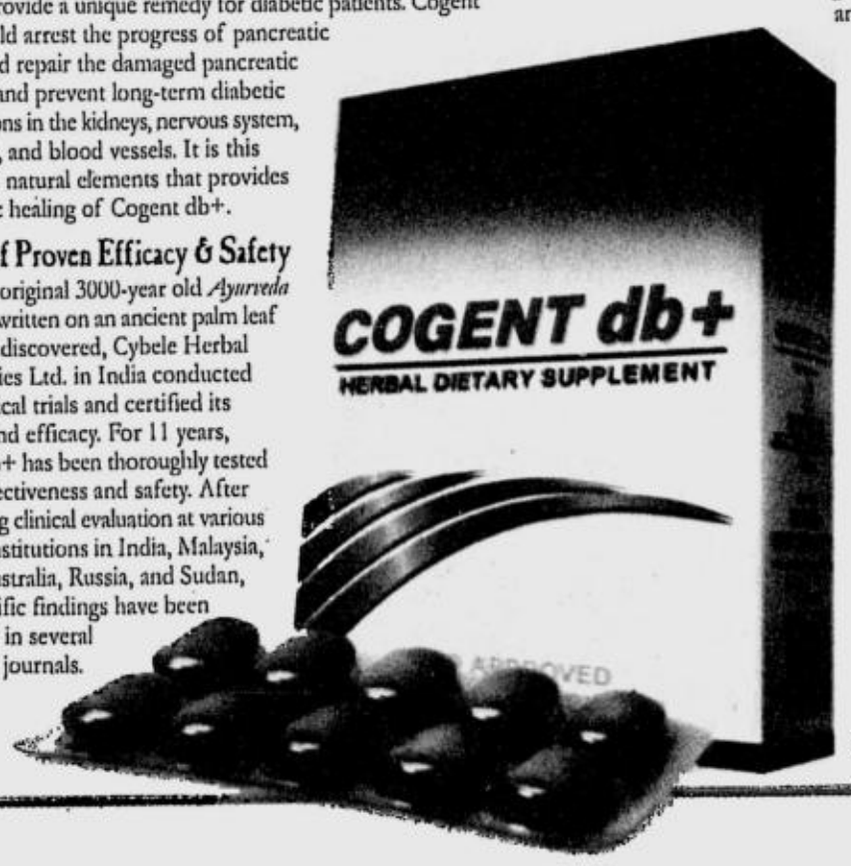

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Ambush, car bombings kill 69 Iraqis

BAQUBA, Iraq—Forty-nine Iraqi army recruits and their civilian driver were gunned down in a bloody ambush northeast of Baghdad, officials said on Sunday, one of the deadliest attacks ever against the country's fledgling security forces.

The slaughter followed twin suicide car bombings against police and the Iraqi national guard on Saturday that killed 20 people.

The bodies of the army recruits were discovered on a road near Baquba, in an area that has been the scene of frequent attacks against Iraq's security forces as they struggle to put down a deadly insurgency.

"We received information about this during the night and immediately dispatched a patrol, which found the bodies of the new recruits who had been executed," said Walid Khaled Abdelsalamam, the police chief of Diyala province.

He told AFP the corpses were discovered on the road between Baladruz and Badra, south of Baquba, a town lying 60 kilometres northeast of the Iraqi capital.

It was unclear when the ambush occurred or who carried it out.

The victims had been returning home in minibuses to the southern Shiite-dominated cities of Amara and Kut after a 20-day training course at a desert camp near the Iranian border, said local council member Khadija Mohammed.

"The bodies were evacuated to a national guard base at Mandali (120 km east of Baquba)," he added.

The US-led military in Iraq has invested much time and money into training Iraq's army, police and national guard.

A US military spokesperson said the defense ministry was likely to make a statement about the matter later in the day.

Members of Iraq's security forces are a favorite target in an insurgency that flared up in the aftermath of last year's US-led invasion and which US and Iraqi officials are desperate to crush.

The discovery of the bodies came as Iraqi police and national guards struggled to recover from a twin suicide car bombing that ripped through their ranks on Saturday, killing 20. *AFP*

Aftershocks jar Japan after powerful quakes

OJIYA, Japan—Japan was hit by strong aftershocks Sunday after powerful earthquakes killed at least 19 people, injured nearly 900 and for the first time ever derailed a bullet train, within days of the country's worst typhoon in a quarter century.

Houses were flattened, roads were cracked wide open and streets were scattered with broken glass after a tremor measuring 6.8 on the Richter scale and more than 240 aftershocks struck Niigata prefecture, 200 kilometers north of Tokyo, on Saturday.

Nineteen people were killed, four missing and 877 injured, said Kohei Kawasaki, a Niigata police spokesperson. Public broadcaster NHK said some 1,500 people were injured.

"The devastation of the quakes were beyond what we had imagined. I give my sincere sympathies," Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi told reporters Sunday.

Koizumi said the government would work quickly to help victims of the quake and Typhoon Tokage, which killed at least 79 people as it ripped through Japan on Wednesday.

The dead from the quake were mostly elderly and children and included a 76-year-old hospital patient whose artificial respirator was dislodged by the tremors and at least three people, including a two-month-old baby boy, who died from shock.

Three children were also killed under the rubble of their house which collapsed in the town of Ojiya, the city in the seaside region that suffered much of the destruction.

"The damage is getting worse, but we are not fully grasping the whole picture. We simply cannot inspect quake-hit areas because of broken roads," police spokesperson Kawasaki said.

Around 58,700 people were evacuated for safety around Niigata which was hit Sunday afternoon by two strong aftershocks of 4.9 and 4.6 on the Richter scale within two hours. No immediate damage was reported.

The Niigata earthquakes were the deadliest to hit tremor-prone Japan since 1995 when 6,433 people were killed and 43,700 injured when the western city of Kobe was devastated by a quake measuring 7.3 on the Richter scale.

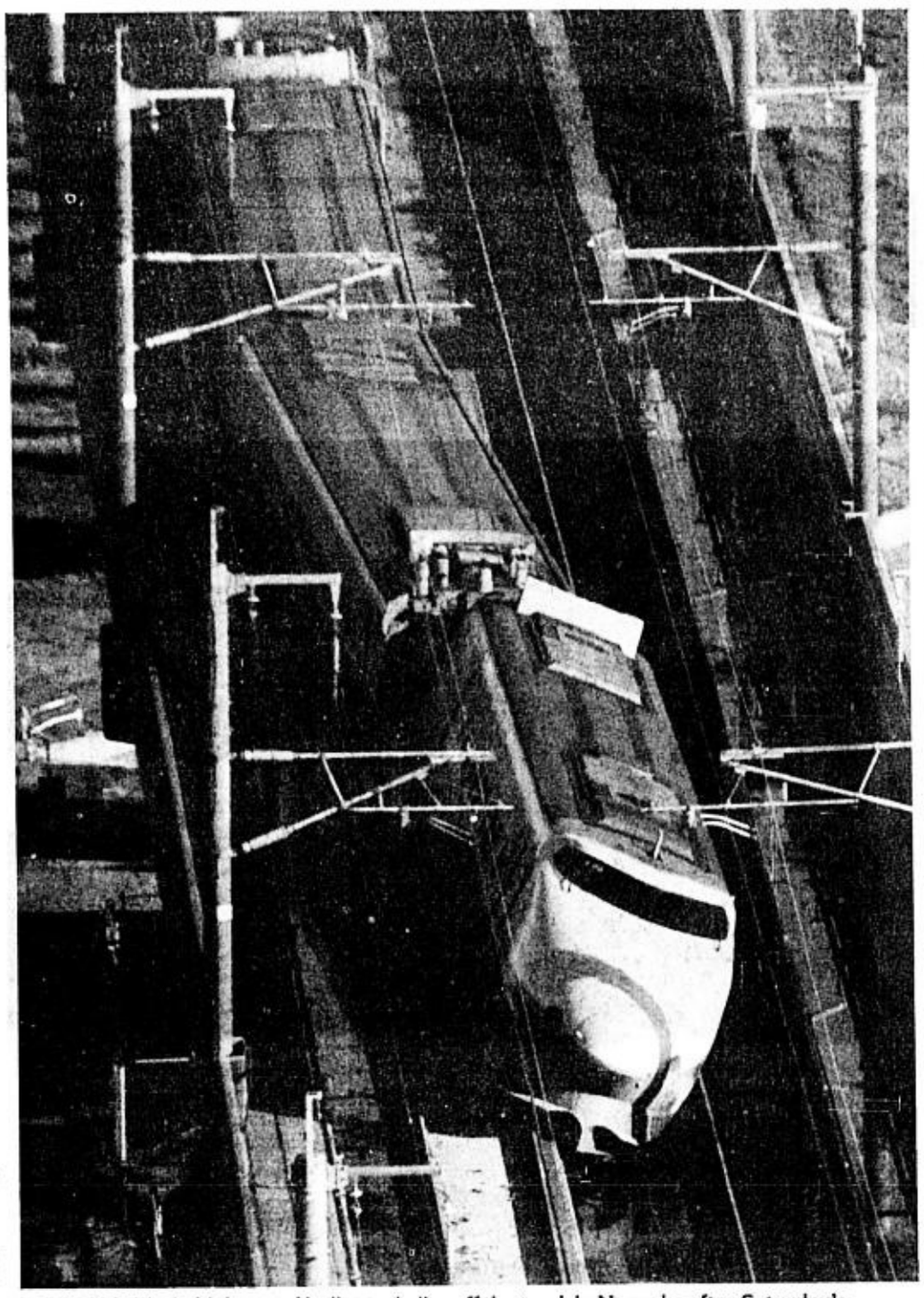
The Japanese Red Cross Society distributed blankets, canned food, bread and soup and was ready with three tons of emergency kits that can provide medical supplies to 200 people in Ojiya for three days.

More than 250 homes and 90 non-residential buildings were destroyed or damaged, NHK said, adding there were at least eight landslides.

Saturday's quakes cut off power to as many as 284,000 households, a spokesperson for Tohoku Electric Power Co. said, adding that 12,800 were still without electricity Sunday.

The quakes also derailed a Shinkansen bullet train Saturday for the first time since Japan's high-speed rail service began 40 years ago.

But no one was injured as the train, heading from Tokyo to Niigata at 120 kilometers per hour, was thrown off course. *AFP*



A CARRIAGE of a high-speed bullet train lies off the track in Nagaoka after Saturday's powerful quakes hit Japan. REUTERS

Iran rejects EU 'last chance' nuke proposal

TEHRAN—Iran on Sunday rejected a European Union proposal that it stop enriching uranium in return for nuclear technology, increasing the likelihood that it will be reported to the UN Security Council for possible sanctions.

Diplomats had said that if Iran rejected the proposal drafted by Britain, Germany and France, most EU countries would back a US demand that Tehran be reported to the Security Council when the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) meets on Nov. 25.

The EU trio want Iran to halt uranium enrichment since it can be used to make nuclear bomb material. Iran insists it only wants to make the fuel for nuclear power stations.

"The EU proposal is unbalanced ... unlimited uranium suspension is unacceptable for Iran," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hamid Reza Asefi told a news conference.

But Asefi left the door open for an agreement after further talks, scheduled to take place later this week in Vienna.

"We view the European offer as a primitive proposal not a final one," he said. "Negotiations will continue on Wednesday. We will have our own suggestions and we will study the Europeans' proposal and will give the Europeans the results."

Washington accuses oil-rich Iran of using its nuclear program as a veil for developing an atomic arsenal. Tehran says it only wants to generate electricity.

The EU "big three" Britain, Germany and France have led a European effort at compromise that would avoid sending Iran's case to the UN Security Council.

"The Europeans have chosen the right way by negotiations," Asefi said. "We have to reach an agreement that would solve the Europeans' worries and give us our rights."

Even before Asefi's comments diplomats and analysts had expressed doubts that Iran would accept the EU trio's proposal.

"They're quite confident right now," said political analyst Mahmoud Alinejad.

"They think that even if they are referred to the Security Council it will not be that serious in that there won't be an embargo on Iran's oil or anything really damaging and if sanctions are imposed it would end up being more (politically) damaging for the Europeans and Americans than for them."

Iran feels it can rely on permanent Security Council members Russia and China to use their veto power or at least abstain in any vote against Iran. *Reuters*

Kosovo president's party wins election boycotted by Serbs

PRISTINA, Serbia-Montenegro—Kosovo President Ibrahim Rugova's party won general elections, boycotted by ethnic Serbs, but fell short of winning an overall majority to form a government by itself, estimates by independent observers showed Sunday.

Rugova's Democratic League of Kosovo garnered 47 percent of the vote, said Ibrahim Makolli of the nongovernment monitor Center for the Defense of Human Rights and Freedoms.

His main rival, the Democratic Party of Kosovo of former guerrilla leader Hashim Thaci, gained 27 percent, while the Alliance for the Future of Kosovo of former guerrilla leader Ramush Haradinaj came third with eight percent, Makolli said.

If the results were confirmed, no single party would be able to form a government and a future coalition government would have to be negotiated, as had been the case after the 2001 election.

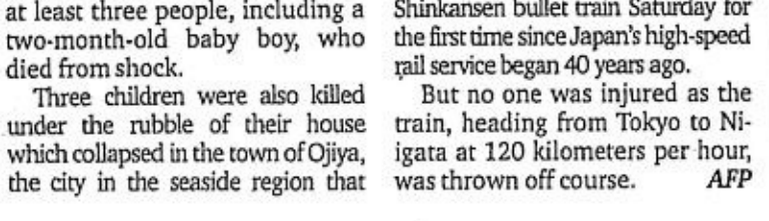
First preliminary results were expected on Monday.

The central electoral commission said turnout among Kosovo's 1.4 million voters was 53 percent.

But a massive boycott by the Serb minority overshadowed the election, the second in the UN-administered Serbian province since the 1998-99 war between Serbian forces and ethnic Albanian separatists.

The vote for Kosovo's 120-seat assembly was seen as a test for the international community's effort to build a multi-ethnic democracy in the southern Serbian province which has been administered by the United Nations since a Nato bombing campaign forced Belgrade to withdraw its troops in June 1999.

But as the polls closed it became clear that the vast majority of ethnic Serbs had boycotted the vote to demand greater autonomy and security in the mainly ethnic Albanian province. *AFP*



AMERICAN Nasa astronaut Mike Fincke waves shortly after his landing. AP

US-Russian ISS crew lands, savors sweet smell of Earth

NEAR ARKALYK, Kazakhstan—A Soyuz capsule made a soft landing in the pitch-dark in Kazakhstan's steppes on Sunday, and its US-Russian crew said they were happy to breathe in the smell of Earth after a long stint in orbit.

US astronaut Michael Fincke and Russian Gennady Padalka had manned the 16-nation International Space Station for almost 188 days, while Russian Yuri Shargin spent just 10 days there.

The returning crew landed at 0035 GMT (8:35 am in Manila), precisely on time and on target, 88 km north of the Kazakh town of Arkalyk.

"We were very happy to be home," a smiling and relaxed Fincke told a news briefing later. "When they opened the hatch, there was such a beautiful smell that we knew we'd come home." *Reuters*

Match faith with deeds, Kerry tells Bush

FORT LAUDERDALE, Florida—Prodded by political logic, Democratic White House hope John Kerry is shedding an inbred reluctance to showcase his faith, and using scripture to malign President George W. Bush, a born-again Methodist.

Kerry, a Roman Catholic, has reached out in the final weeks of his White House campaign, trying to ensure the political power of America's churches is not wielded disproportionately on behalf of his opponent.

"I don't wear my own faith on my sleeve," Kerry said during his acceptance speech at the Democratic Party convention in Boston in July.

But in the political lifetime that has since elapsed, Kerry has slowly opened up about faith, saying his grounding as a Catholic altar boy helped him through combat in Vietnam and guided his later life in politics.

His pulpit has often been an African American church in a contested state like Ohio or Florida, with homilies designed to broaden his appeal among the black community he is counting on to show up at the polls in large numbers.

"It is not enough, my brother, to say you have faith, when there are no deeds, faith without works is dead," Kerry said, preaching from the Book of St. James at Mount Zion Baptist Church in Cleveland, Ohio, in early October.

The implication: Bush might sprinkle his speeches with religious allusions and play to his Christian conservative base, but has failed to match words with action on poverty, job losses and healthcare.

Kerry ended his lesson with the parable of the Good Samaritan, who stopped to help a robbed and beaten man after two other men walked by on the other side of the road.

"It is clear: for four years, George W. Bush may have talked about compassion, but he's walked right by. He's seen people in need, but he's crossed over to the other side of the street," Kerry said at Mount Zion.

Religion is highly influential in US politics, and the percentage of citizens who believe in God in the United States is higher than most other countries in the western world.

A Time magazine poll last June showed voters who described themselves as "very religious" supported Bush 59 percent to 35 percent for Kerry.

Aides said Kerry would take another step on his public religious journey on Sunday at an African American church in Florida, and at another speech elsewhere in Florida on values.

His strategy has been heavily influenced by his opponent, who, as president, put religion at the forefront of his administration—and, according to critics, allowed it to dictate policy.

Bush has presented his antiterror campaign as a battle between good and evil, and doled out a billion dollars to faith-based social service groups, prompting some opponents to warn he has weakened the sacred separation of church and state in US politics. *AFP*

SEN. Hillary Clinton (D-NY) speaks in West Palm Beach, Florida, Oct. 23 during the rally for Kerry. Clinton spoke about how important it was for women to get out and vote in Palm Beach County. During the last election in 2000, there were 22 million women in Florida that did not vote. REUTERS

Bird flu flies to Belgium

BRUSSELS—Belgian authorities Sunday appealed to a Thai man who smuggled two bird flu-infected Asian eagles into Brussels airport to make contact, and urged passengers who took the same flights to seek medical help.

Anxious to prevent a European outbreak of the deadly virus, the public health ministry said it was trying to find the Thai man following confirmation Saturday that the two Mountain Hawk Eagles were infected with avian influenza.

The bird flu virus has hit six Asian nations killing at least 30 people so far.

The man was apprehended by Belgian customs officers when the eagles were discovered in his bags last Monday, live and wrapped up in plastic tubing. But he was apparently then released. *AFP*

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01-31 MAMMA MIA!
01-31 Tan Swie Hian
01-03 Sing Song
05-07 Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater
09-31 Hari Raya Light-Up
14-22 Navarathri Festival
14-31 Pilgrimage to Kusu Island
15-31 Deepavali Light-Up 2004
24 Action Asia Challenge

NOVEMBER
01 Thoemidhi Festival
01-30 Fabric of the Nation exhibition
01-30 Crossroads: Collective Works of Second Generation Artists
01-30 Ju Ming 2004 Singapore-Beijing-Shanghai Asian Sculpture at its Best
01-30 MAMMA MIA!
01-30 Tan Swie Hian
01-14 Deepavali Light-Up 2004
01-14 godeatgod
06-15 Disney Live! Winnie the Pooh and the Perfect Day
11-12 Dances of the Orient
11 Deepavali
13-21 Singapore International Buskers Festival
13-30 Christmas in the Tropics 2004
14 Hari Raya Puasa
15-21 Singapore Badminton Open
16-21 The Little Match Girl
20-21 Singapore River Regatta
20-30 Rumpelstiltskin
23-30 Sesame Street Live Everyone Makes Music
25 BONEY'M LIVE 2004
26-30 Warisan Kita Festival
26-30 Nickelodeon's Christmas by the Bay
26-30 Family Festival
27 Kavyarasa

DECEMBER
01-31 Fabric of the Nation exhibition
01-31 Crossroads: Collective Works of Second Generation Artists
01-31 Ju Ming 2004 Singapore-Beijing-Shanghai Asian Sculpture at its Best
01-31 MAMMA MIA!
01-31 Christmas in the Tropics 2004
01-03 Sesame Street Live Everyone Makes Music
01-04 Warisan Kita Festival
01-05 Family Festival
01-09 Nickelodeon's Christmas by the Bay
01-12 Rumpelstiltskin
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American woman, 2 others killed in Kabul suicide attack; Karzai leads

KABUL, Afghanistan—The death toll from a suicide attack on Nato troops in the Afghan capital rose overnight to three, after an American translator and an Afghan girl succumbed to their injuries, relatives and officials said Sunday.

The bombing Saturday ended an uneasy calm in Kabul following a security clampdown for landmark presidential elections that US-backed interim leader Hamid Karzai appeared set to win.

Karzai was moving closer to gaining an outright majority of the votes, according to preliminary results issued on Sunday. With 86.4 percent of the estimated 8.1 million valid votes counted, he had 3.79 million votes.

On Saturday afternoon, a purported Taliban militant with grenades strapped to his body detonated several of them on a Kabul shopping street popular with foreigners, initially killing himself and wounding seven others, including three Nato soldiers from Iceland.

In the United States, relatives of Jamie Michalsky, a 23-year-old translator, said she had died of injuries she suffered in the blast.

Michalsky had been working in Uzbekistan, but was in Afghanistan to see a doctor about a hand injury, said her stepfather, Dan Everson. The former Army reservist knew Afghanistan from an earlier tour of active duty.

The 11-year-old Afghan girl died late Saturday in a Kabul hospital, said Nato spokesperson Sqn. Ldr. David Bennett.

Bennett said the three soldiers, who had just stepped out of a vehicle when the man began detonating the grenades one-by-one, were "all fine." Two had already been released from a German field hospital in the city.

He said they were from the 15-strong Icelandic contingent in the multinational peacekeeping force that patrols the capital.

Chicken Street, the heart of Kabul's rejuvenated commercial district, is crammed with convenience stores and souvenir shops popular with foreign aid workers and soldiers.

Security officials and embassies warned that the area could present an ideal target for extremists.

The US Embassy has urged caution during the election period, especially since a car bomb at the office of a US security contractor killed about 10 people, including three Americans, on Aug. 29.

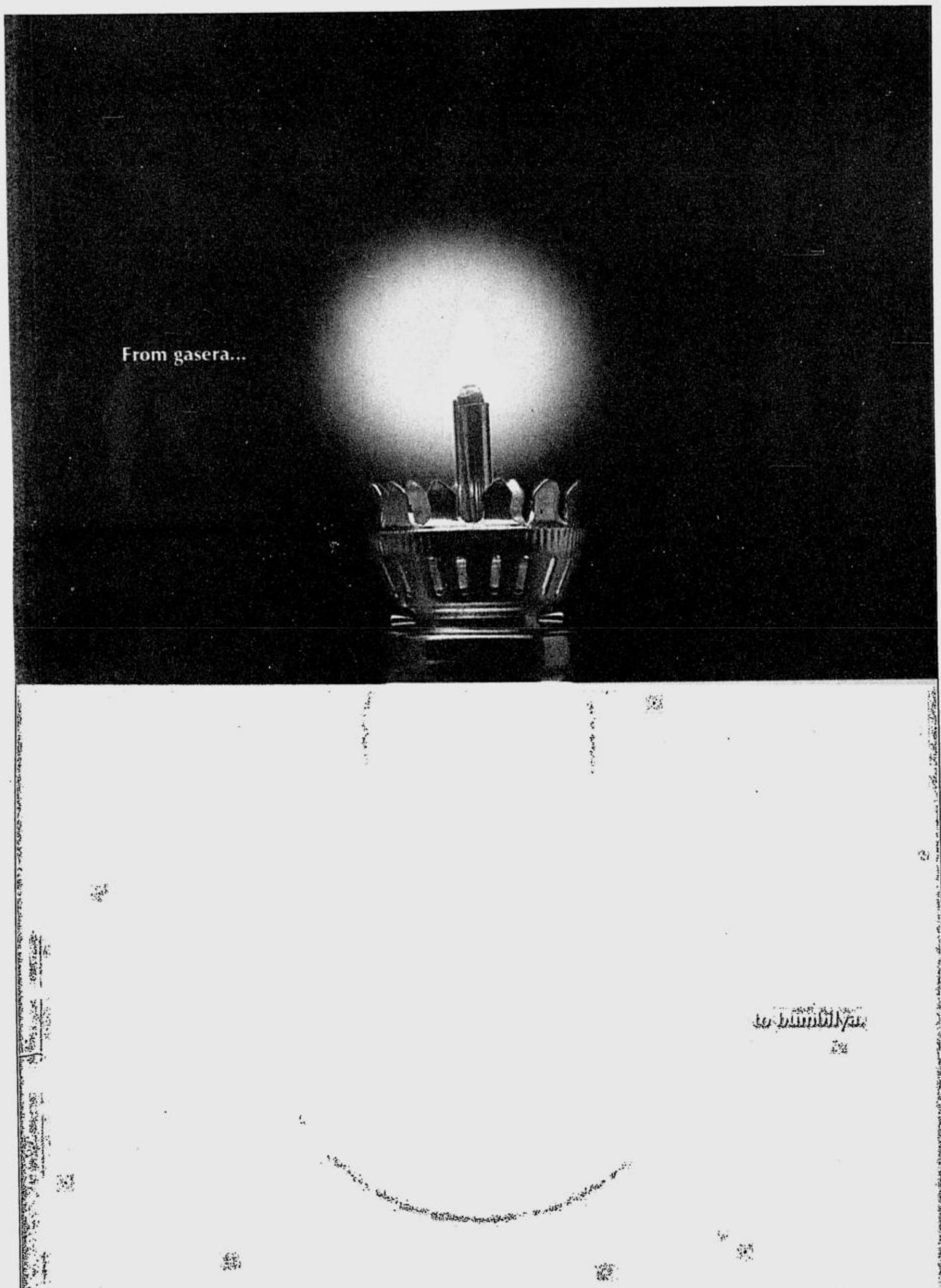
Mullah Abdul Hakim Latifi, a Taliban spokesperson, said one of its fighters carried out the latest attack.

"This man was an Afghan, and he had a bomb strapped to his body," Latifi told The Associated Press by satellite telephone from an undisclosed location. "The elections cannot stop our holy war."

The claim's authenticity could not be verified. Some previous assertions of responsibility for attacks from Latifi have turned out to be false.

In January, the Taliban claimed back-to-back suicide bombings in Kabul. They killed two Nato soldiers—one Canadian, one British. Investigators looking into the case have disclosed no findings. *AP*

A CHILD looks at a hole in a shop window caused by the suicide attack. REUTERS



Israeli Cabinet to decide on Gaza withdrawal plan

JERUSALEM—Israel's Cabinet was on Sunday to decide on a bill that would set out how to implement Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's controversial pullout plan to evacuate 8,000 Israeli settlers from the Gaza Strip.

The Cabinet meeting comes ahead of a critical parliamentary vote Tuesday on Sharon's plan, which envisages moving out the settlers now living in the Gaza Strip and closing down four small settlements in the north of the West Bank.

In turn, Sharon is looking to strengthen Israeli control over larger West Bank settlements where the vast majority of settlers live.

The Gaza Strip is home to 1.3 million Palestinians.

According to a draft of the bill to be discussed by the Cabinet, the prime minister, with Cabinet backing, can decide exactly which sectors will be evacuated and when, an official told AFP.

Sharon, after consulting the defense and internal security ministers, can also impose a total or partial ban on protesters whose presence in a particular area may disrupt the pullout, which is due to be completed by September 2005.

One section of the draft envisages penalties of three to five years in prison for those who impede the project by going into banned areas, those who obstruct security forces involved in evacuating settlers, destroy buildings or block access to settlements.

The pullout plan has been vehemently opposed by Jewish settlers, the extreme right and a hard core of Sharon's own Likud party. The prime minister, once hailed as the champion of the settler movement, has faced death threats over the plan.

Political commentators expect Sharon to win the backing of 66 MPs in the 120-seat Knesset or parliament on Tuesday, with some 40 voting against.

The support of the opposition Labour party should balance out Sharon's opponents in his own Likud party who will vote against him. *AFP*

Ukranians hold massive rally for honest polls

KIEV—At least 100,000 Ukrainians, staging the biggest demonstration of post-Soviet times, poured through Kiev on Saturday to demand a clean presidential election in a show of strength for opposition hopeful Viktor Yushchenko.

Tens of thousands of supporters carrying the orange banners of Yushchenko's campaign surged down Kiev's elegant central streets bringing traffic to a halt.

"A decisive day for the nation is approaching. We are ready. We demand fair elections," Yushchenko told a roaring crowd outside the building where officials will count the votes in the election's first round on Oct. 31.

"We need only one thing—new leadership. Leaders who will open a door to your future." Yushchenko, a liberal pro-Western former prime minister and central banker, is expected to finish atop of the poll along with Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich, who has the backing of outgoing President Leonid Kuchma.

A run-off in November is all but inevitable, given a first-round field of 24 candidates.

The United States and European Union have called on Ukraine to ensure a fair poll, seen as an assessment of Kuchma's decade in power, plagued by scandals and accusations of corruption.

Yushchenko has based his campaign on advancing political and economic reform to move closer to Ukraine's western neighbors, new members of the European Union.

Yanukovich, a former governor in industrial eastern Ukraine, has pledged to consolidate ties with Russia, tighten state control of the economy and make Russian an official language—all anathema to the country's large nationalist constituency.

"The authorities want to buy votes. Their candidate stands no chance of winning honestly," Yushchenko, looking recovered from a lengthy illness but still drawn, told the crowd. *Reuters*

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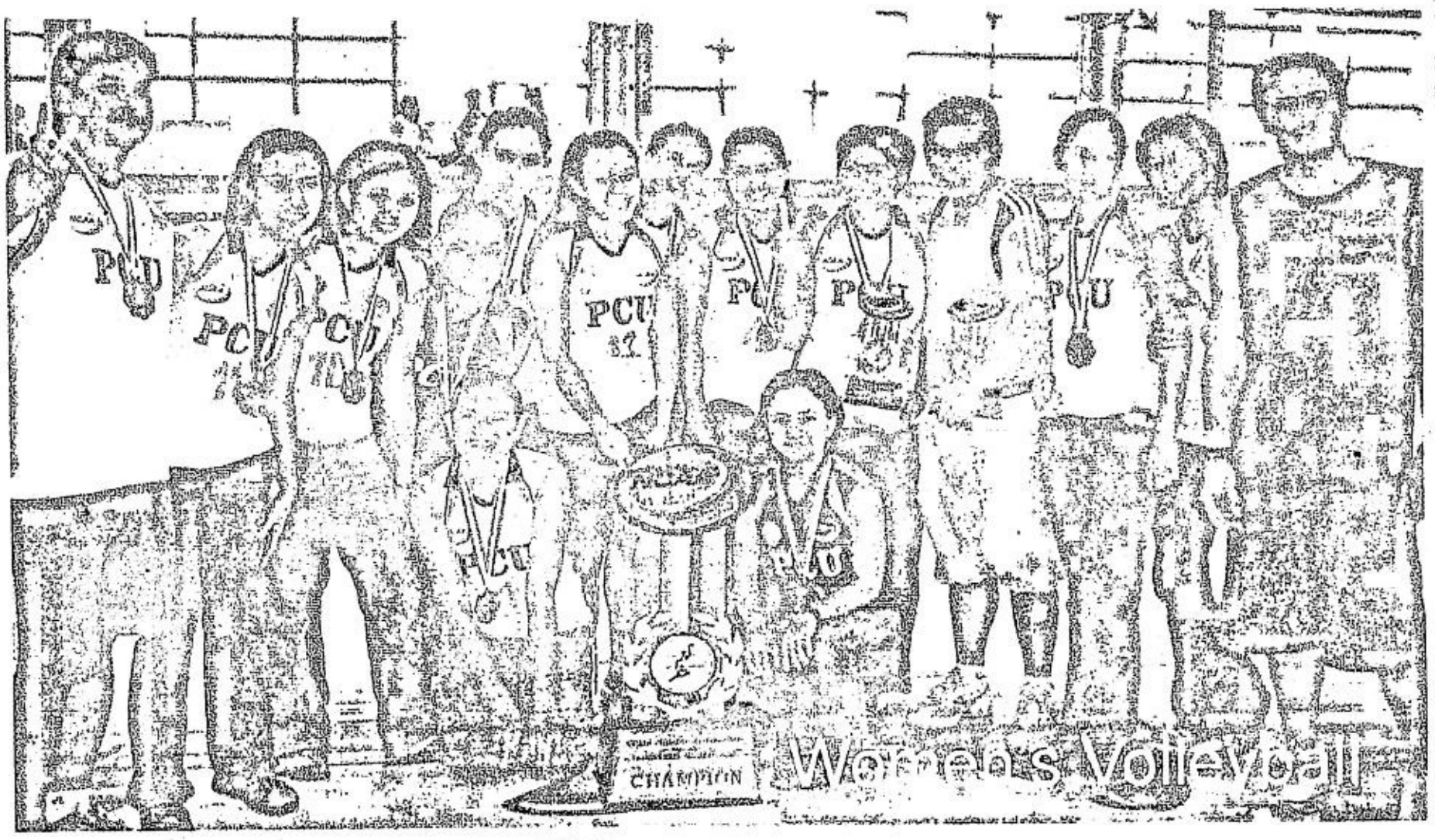

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OPINION

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Debt relief 2

EDITORIAL

FOR every P1,000 that the national government spends, some P300 goes to service past debts. This heavy burden has prevented the national budget from becoming the catalyst of growth we need it to be. Tragically, this burden looks set to become even heavier in the future.

Thus, as we suggested yesterday, perhaps, it truly is time to reconsider debt relief. It may finally be time to renegotiate—not merely to arrange longer payment periods or lower interest rates but to reduce—the national government's overall debt stock.

But a crucial caveat: The worst thing that can happen is for the government to unilaterally announce that it will launch an aggressive renegotiation of the public debt, to reduce it.

There is no risk, however, that the Arroyo administration will suddenly abandon a 30-year-old faith and preach the gospel of debt reduction. This is just as well, because the initiative must start and proceed without official government sanction.

Thus, it seems clear that, in reconsidering this option, we must **let the private sector take charge**. The public letter several business leaders signed and released last week, appealing to the President to set in place a more active population control policy, offers an instructive example.

If the country's business leaders spearhead the campaign to raise the possibility of debt renegotiation, they bring their international credibility, their business reputation, to bear on the matter. They will be in a much better position than government ministers to make the case for the Philippines.

And what is that case, exactly? That our debt burden prevents one of the largest economies in Southeast Asia from realizing its fullest potential; that as the 11 economists from the University of the Philippines have shown, we are at most three years away from fiscal or, perhaps, even economic collapse; that getting paid say 75 cents for every dollar of debt is better than not getting paid at all; that an economy relieved of a large part of its debt burden benefits not only its citizens but its creditors as well.

It is also important to **highlight the precedents in debt relief**. It is a matter of record that the world's largest economies, thus almost by definition the world's largest creditors, are being converted ever so slowly to the new faith.

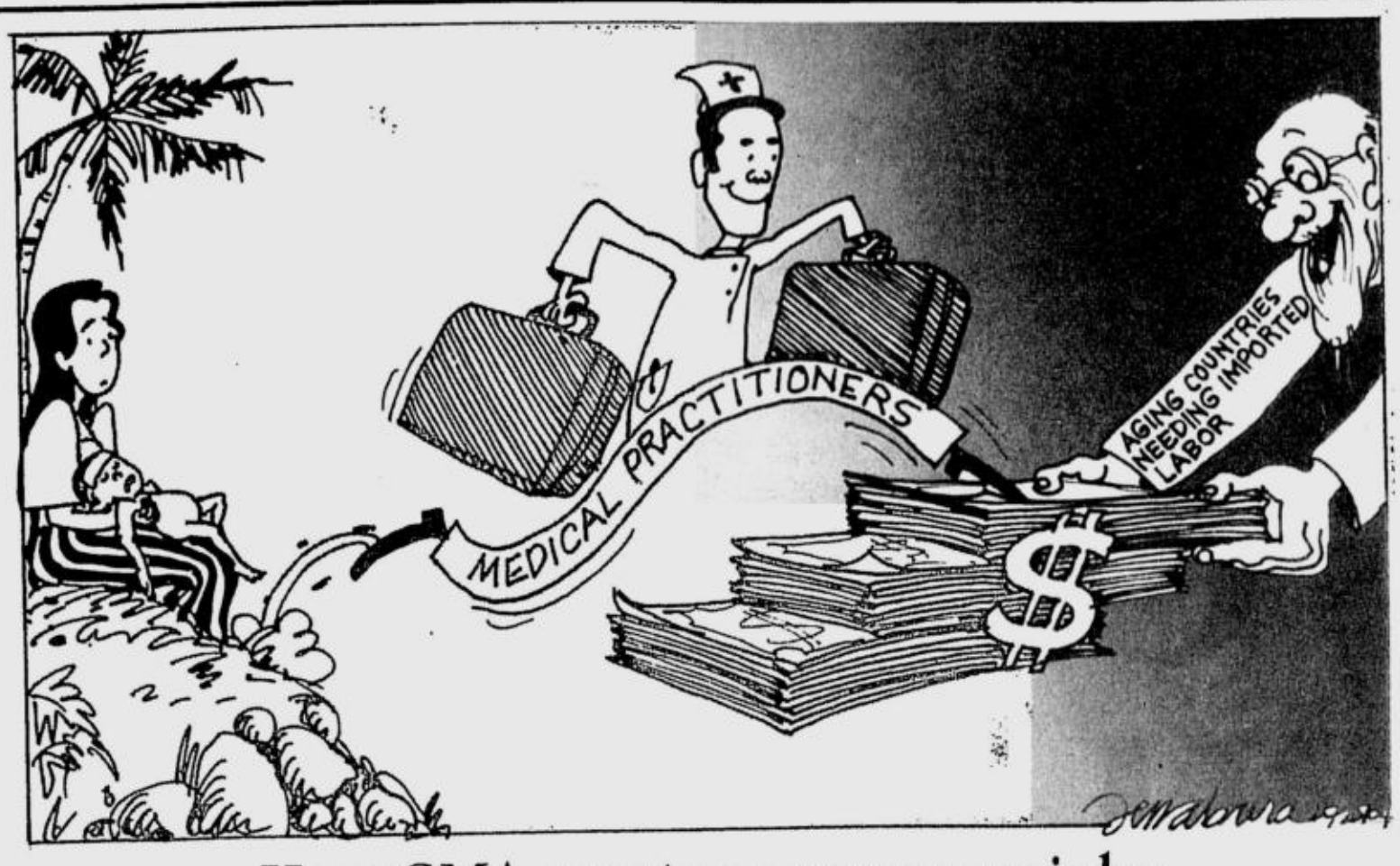
To be sure, the beneficiaries of the Highly Indebted Poor Countries initiative are truly impoverished nations, mainly in sub-Saharan Africa. But the HIPC campaign is not a mere gesture of goodwill; it has already reduced the debt stock of the 30 or so poorest nations on earth by billions of dollars. Its example has also emboldened the United States to ask for as much as an 80-percent reduction in Iraq's foreign debt. As an official of Oxfam, the development organization, noted last June: "Iraqi debt is around $126 billion and a large chunk of this is likely to be written off. This suggests that when it is politically convenient, large-scale debt relief is possible."

A developing economy like the Philippines does not fit the existing categories for debt relief; but a private sector initiative led by some of the most reputable businessmen in this part of the world may lead to a new classification. Would it hurt to try?

Not least, it is vital to **know that Argentina is not the end of the world**. For many who follow the orthodox or mainstream economic persuasion, Argentina is a four-letter word; having fallen into the debt trap in the 1980s and then again in the 1990s, it is used to silence the arguments for debt relief.

If a government defies its international creditors or defaulted on its foreign debt, the counter-argument goes, it will suffer the Argentine scenario. In December 2001, Argentina defaulted on its $150-billion foreign debt—the largest ever default in history. The resulting recession was immediate and devastating. But to focus on what came after is to miss the essential: the debt crisis fed deep social unrest, and creditor-imposed austerity measures led to a one-day orgy of violence which killed dozens and injured thousands.

Now the new administration is offering (among other initiatives) to pay creditors about 25 cents for every dollar of debt. Has the Argentine economy stalled? After contracting in 2002, it grew last year by 8.4 percent. Has it turned into a pariah? Not exactly. Creditors are right in the middle of negotiations, bargaining for 30 cents on the dollar.



How GMA creates many new jobs

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

WHO says President Macapagal-Arroyo isn't providing jobs to Filipinos? Isn't she handing out jobs right and left?

And not just ordinary jobs, but jobs in Malacañang—as presidential advisers with Cabinet rank. What advice they will give, nobody (not even the advisers) knows. But we do know that as Cabinet secretaries, they will take home not only fat salaries but also fat allowances, and free service cars, free gasoline, free chauffers, vans full of bodyguards, two or more motorcycle escorts, and the right to appoint relatives as confidential secretaries and chiefs of staff, all paid for by the taxpayers. And the right to be called "Mr. Secretary" and to be saluted by the Palace guards.

I heard another wing is being added to Malacañang Palace because, during Cabinet meetings, the Cabinet members and presidential advisers of Cabinet rank can no longer be accommodated in one place. Also, there is talk that Malacañang wants to reclaim part of the Pasig River and convert it into a parking lot because there is no more parking space for all the luxury vehicles with red plate numbers that converge on Malacañang on the days the Cabinet meet. There are so many of these luxury vehicles with the number "6" that the superstitious in the neighborhood become agitated because the number "666" is said to be the Devil's number and therefore could bring bad luck.

When the Cabinet meet, the Palace guards are placed on high alert not only because of the concentration of "6s" but also because so many top officials gathered in one place become a tempting target for terrorists.

There is also talk that hungry politicians are reluctant to take the position of national treasurer, afraid that they'd have difficulty looking for money to pay for Malacañang's growing payroll.

But what can one do, the President promised to create one million jobs and if private companies won't provide those jobs, why, the government will. Her promise to create jobs must not make a liar out of the President—again. She has promised so often that whenever she promises something, people expect the opposite. That's bad, so I think she has the right to change the people's wrong attitude by surprising them: once in a while, she should fulfill her promises.

But having one million presidential advisers may be a little too much, even for the likes of GMA. So she is creating whole new offices. Then she can hire people not only singly but in batches. The "superbody" Office of External Affairs (OEA) is only one of these. There will be others, don't worry. The President's one-million-job promise will soon be fulfilled.

But where will the government get the money to pay all the new hires? From the Filipinos, where else? There are 80 million of them. If each of them pays a few hundred pesos in taxes, that will make billions of pesos. Anyway, they will pay, whether they like it or not; Congress will see to that—by passing the necessary tax laws.

Besides, many of these taxes they will not recognize at all. They will be hidden in the prices of necessities that people buy every day. People can't eat or go anywhere or do anything without having to pay taxes. You want to relax by smoking a stick of cigarette? You pay tax. You want to forget your woes by getting drunk? You pay tax. You want a can of sardines for your hungry children? You pay tax. Yes sir, like death, taxes are unavoidable.

In fact, even when you die, you have to pay taxes. And your children, whom you will leave behind without a breadwinner and saddled with your debts, will have to pay an inheritance tax.

So don't worry about where to get the payroll money. And if the Treasury goes bust, the President can always order the layoff of hundreds of thousands of rank-and-file government employees so that their pay allocations can be rechanneled to the salaries of the presidential advisers. If worst comes to worst, we can always borrow, as GMA did during her first term. She sailed through that term without anybody getting any wiser, didn't she?

But how will she pay for all the loans? Again, don't worry. That's not her problem. That's the problem of the next president.

* * *

It has become clear why the paratroopers are the elite soldiers in any armed force. We know now why being a paratrooper is coveted by almost every soldier. In fact, it has turned out that every AFP chief of staff is a paratrooper, regardless of whether he comes from the Army, Navy, Air Force, or Marines. Each of them is provided with a "golden parachute" upon retirement from the AFP.

The parachute is very expensive. It might as well be literally coated with gold, for it costs as much as P300 million each.

Where does the money to pay for them come from? Where else but from the taxpayers!

* * *

Isn't it eerie that the unfolding "corruption in the military" seems so like the corruption in the civilian government? It is history repeating itself.

The son of an aide of former AFP chief of staff Angelo Reyes has come out to claim that he owns the cock farm on Reyes' lot in Parañaque. This sounds so much like presidential brother-in-law (now congressman) Ignacio "Iggy" Arroyo claiming the Jose Pidal bank deposits as his own, thus taking the heat away from his brother.

Iggy has become a role model of sorts, it seems. Maj. Gen. Carlos F. Garcia's mantra—his right against self-incrimination—before the House committees on defense and banks is an echo of Iggy's own mantra before the Senate—his right to privacy.

Misplaced sympathies

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I WAS struck by an item I read on our front page last Wednesday. A couple of Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia's "mistahs" from PMA Class 1971, who are now high-ranking officials of the PNP, were impressed by his transformation in the congressional hearing. "He has really changed," they said. "He is no longer the silent, soft-spoken guy we've always known him to be since our days in the Academy."

This was just as it should be, one of them added. "The trial by publicity is just too much. If I were in his shoes, I would be just as combative. What's there to lose? I believe he is just a victim of circumstances. Yes, he made a lot of money. But nobody can say he did that exclusively. Higher-ranking officials might have stolen more. How come he's the lone focus of this controversy?"

The reason for Garcia's transformation from lamb to lion, the official added, was that Garcia was fuming at the thought that the congressmen who were pillorying him were "just as corrupt, if not more so." Garcia probably figured, the official said, that "the entire government should be on trial because corruption has been going on since time immemorial."

There and then you see the kind of thinking that has made crooks and thieves thrive in this country like pirates in Tortuga. You see the kind of thinking that has given this country the dubious distinction of producing two leaders that made it to Transparency International's list of the 10 most corrupt leaders in Asia (Marcos and Erap). You see the kind of thinking that has allowed the corrupt and ungodly in this country to go unpunished.

Of course it's true. Many of those who are surrounding Garcia like a pack of wolves in Congress are probably more venal than him. I still recall Ramon Mitra's depiction of his colleagues as people who will sign anything, including toilet paper, if it had peso signs on it.

As my friends keep telling me, moreover, how would you feel knowing somebody bigger than you, who was accused of bigger pillage and who has been the object of a bigger hearing, got away thoroughly unscathed? That of course was Mike Arroyo, who was accused at about this same time last year of amassing a fortune in the guise of one Jose Pidal. Unlike Arroyo who threw his brother, Ignacio, to the wolves, Garcia did not do the same thing to his son, whose botched attempt to smuggle in $100,000 to the United States first drew attention to his shenanigans. Garcia in fact begged his judges to go easy on his relations.

If I recall right, it was Ignacio who first used the concept of "right to silence" in defense of himself. That was how he answered questions about the Pidal account. He got away with the ruse, as did his older brother, the senators being content to construe silence not just as ignorance but innocence. Why the hell shouldn't Garcia use the same tack?

But this is the part that bothers me. I can understand why Garcia should be pissed off at the double standard. But I cannot understand why anyone would imagine he deserves sympathy, or indeed not to pay for his crime. That is the startling idiocy we've held on from time immemorial, to quote Garcia's "mistah," to go with the corruption that has gone on since time immemorial. That is the notion that two wrongs make a right. That is the notion that if you can cite the precedent of someone who got away with the same crime as yours, you should enjoy the same result.

Someone gets away with pillage, you may get away with pillage, too. Someone gets away with murder—and Arturo Pacificador has just given whole new dimensions to it—you may get away with murder, too. It's an incredibly perverse interpretation of the principle of universality.

But it is one that has taken on the aspect almost of legal tradition in this country. In fact, the real principle is: that another is just as guilty as you, if not more so, does not lessen your guilt, it only makes him equally guilty, if not more so. That another is just as guilty as you, if not more so, does not make you less indictable, it only makes him equally indictable, if not more so. That another is just as guilty as you, if not more so, does not make you less deserving of jail, it only qualifies him to keep you company, or stay on long after you've gone.

Or if the other person has gotten away with the crime already, then the principle is to haul him back and make him pay. Not free him. If Mike Arroyo has gotten away with being Jose Pidal, then arraign him for some other thing. The way the US government arraigned Al Capone for tax evasion, when it couldn't pin him down on bigger things. The comparison with Al Capone owes to more than physical appearance.

Two wrongs do not make a right, they make a bigger wrong.

Garcia is a victim of circumstance only in the same way that Arturo Pacificador is a victim of circumstance. He was born greedy in the same way that Pacificador was born murderous. But their parents themselves might object violently to the attribution of their perversities to genes. My apologies. Some greedy and murderous people are not born that way, they are self-made.

As to the trial by publicity, that is virtually the only trial that is possible in this country. And even that is not enough: Mike Arroyo remains a free and rich man. And despite the fact that all the surveys say Filipinos to a man or woman believe him guilty as hell, and not just of being Jose Pidal, his wife managed to win a second term. Well, the surveys say as well most Filipinos don't think she won at all. The genes run in the family, even if by consanguinity.

Garcia has a point if he thinks the whole government should be on trial. That doesn't mean he shouldn't. That only means he should have Mike Arroyo for company. That should be his biggest punishment of all.

Tall tales?

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE INQUIRER headline yesterday, "AFP's golden parachute" doubtless spun off a lot of reactions. To me, it sounded like a tale straight from the Arabian nights about seemingly unlimited funds that retiring AFP chiefs of staff can have access to as "*pabaon*." The perception is doubtless reinforced by all the stories in recent weeks about the mind-boggling bank accounts and pieces of property here and abroad of suspended Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia. Thanks to his financial machinations, the various allegations about corruption in the Armed Forces of the Philippines now seem more believable than ever.

* * *

A retired officer called up to express his concern over the allegations of *pabaon*, ranging from P100 million to P200 million, allegedly taken from various sources, contingency funds, as well as funds chipped in by contractors servicing the AFP. This officer pointed out that to rechannel AFP contingency funds to the pockets of retiring AFP chiefs would adversely impact on operations. He stressed that such huge "fund manipulations" cannot be hidden, especially since the retiring chiefs will no longer have any staff to defend them.

* * *

This officer also questioned the logic of AFP contractors giving such a big *pabaon* when they can no longer expect to get anything from retiring officials. In addition, he stressed, if this *pabaon* grew bigger during the so-called "revolving door" policy of this administration (when chiefs of staff served for short terms only), its successive releases would have drained the AFP contingency funds. And this, he argued, could not have been hidden from the public eye.

* * *

The caller stressed that such "tall tales" are mere attempts to destroy the AFP and to erode the confidence of our people in our government institutions. He stressed that the government ought to conduct an impartial investigation of the anomalies in the military; but this should be done without sensationalizing of the issue by some media—if only in fairness to former and present chiefs of staff and the military institution. Let the ax fall where it may, but no tall tales please, the caller asked.

* * *

I must say that a number of details don't add up in that banner story. For one thing, it speaks of so-called "benefits" that retiring AFP officers receive, such as the P2 million "separation benefits" said to be received by an outgoing chief of staff (a report attributed to Rear Adm. Mateo Mayuga, AFP personnel chief). The P2 million, however, does not refer to "benefits." Rather, it's the lump sum received by the chief of staff, covering his three-year advance pension and the commutation of his unused leave credits (AFP personnel start receiving their monthly pension only on the fourth year of retirement).

* * *

Was the release of all the negative report on Garcia part of a Central Intelligence Agency plot to remove the Bush administration's support from President Macapagal-Arroyo, as Sen. Aquilino Pimentel has alleged? Frankly, this seems like another tall tale. The Bush administration cannot think of anything right now except how to win the coming elections, as its candidate remains neck and neck with Sen. John Kerry. *Si* GMA *pa ba ang maiisip niyon* (Would it even think of GMA)? C'mon.

* * *

In a speech in Iloilo City, Senate President Franklin Drilon warned against a possible witch-hunt that could result from the ongoing House investigation on Garcia. The same warning was echoed by the Association of Generals & Flag Officers Inc., a group of active and retired officers from the rank of colonel to four-star generals.

In a strongly worded statement sent to me by PMA Class '61's Brig. Gen. Juanito Aquias (ret.), Agfo lamented that "what started as a legitimate inquiry might turn out to be a 'witch hunt'" and it appears to be turning into a "wholesale indictment" of the military establishment. He argued that "perhaps unwittingly," some congressmen, "when under the glare of the klieg lights and in the presence of media," make statements that inflict damage on the AFP and other institutions such as the Philippine Military Academy, "resulting in demoralization among the members of the AFP." Such negative remarks against the institution should be directed at a particular individual member, said Agfo, as a wholesale indictment is "unfair to the rest of the AFP."

* * *

Agfo stressed that they condemn any wrongdoing by anyone especially in the military and police service, and the case of Garcia is "no exception." It emphasized that if there is any evidence showing he is guilty of corruption or any crime, Garcia (PMA Class '71) should be prosecuted by the proper authorities "to the fullest extent of the law." But they also insisted that his rights under the Constitution and the law ought to be respected and he should be accorded due process.

* * *

Agfo stressed that like most concerned citizens, its members react with indignation at the "shameless behavior or callousness" of people in the public service who engage in "flagrantly illegal or immoral activity." But it also emphasized that "We should take responsibility for our actions, so that we do not inadvertently subvert or undermine the institution or the government because of the misdeeds of a few."

I think the Agfo members are quite clear as to the personal responsibility of each official to the government and the country, and how to put wrongdoing even by one of their own in proper perspective. This is to strike the balance between the need to punish someone for his crime/crimes under our laws, but at the same time uphold and respect his constitutionally guaranteed rights (like due process) as a person and as a citizen.

Child warriors

READERS' ADVOCATE

Raul J. Palabrica

DRAMATIC war photos often draw contrasting reactions from the readers. Some like them because they give them, in the comfort of their rooms, an idea of how things are in the battlefield. Others think the pictures trivialize the sufferings of people caught in the middle of an armed conflict.

On the occasion of the arrival of several Malaysian soldiers to monitor the ongoing peace talks between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, the INQUIRER published last Oct. 11 on its front page the picture of two young MILF soldiers holding high-powered firearms.

The accompanying caption read: "Going to war early in their youth, these teenage members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front show off their rifles in the rebel group's Camp Darapanan."

The photo did not sit well with the Council for the Welfare of Children, a government agency under the Office of the President. Through its deputy executive director, the council complained that "the publication of the front shot of two teenage members of the MILF is definitely in contradiction to the guiding principles in reporting and coverage of minors.

"While the graphic description of details of minors involved in the MILF may be considered 'good copy' and interesting for the public, media practitioners are urged to carefully consider the inclusion of details that are sufficient only to help the public understand that evidence of child abuse has occurred.

"There should be a conscious effort to respect and prevent the violation of the confidentiality provision under existing laws, especially when the intended publicity could result in the moral degradation of the child who is a victim of abuse or in conflict with the law."

Young age

When asked to comment on the complaint, the editor in chief said she saw nothing wrong with the photo. She said it was meant to expose the MILF's use of minors in its efforts to force the government to give in to its demand for an independent homeland.

Besides, she added, there was no "graphic description of details" that would have prevented the newspaper from publishing the picture. She emphasized that the publication was meant to underscore the INQUIRER's continuing concern about the sad plight of children in the Philippines and elsewhere in the world who are caught or forced to participate in conflict situations.

I share the council's concern about the moral degradation that minors suffer when, at a tender age, they confront, either voluntarily or under compulsion, the harsh realities of force and violence inflicted on their fellowmen.

Aside from missing the opportunity to enjoy the pleasures of youth—which comes only once in a lifetime—the experience influences the children's view of themselves, their families and the society they live in. They will carry in their consciousness for the rest of their lives their early exposure to death, injury and destruction.

The young Muslims in the photo will one day hold positions of power and responsibility in their communities. They represent the future of the Bangsa Moro people. Unless something substantive is done as soon as possible, that future does not look promising.

Information

The public has a right to know their story. It's a problem that cannot be swept under the rug or ignored as if it does not exist. And what better way to inform and educate the readers about it than publish the photos of the child warriors of the MILF?

At a glance, the readers were able to see from the demeanor of the two minors the effects on them of the secessionist war that has been going on for years in that part of Mindanao. There was none of the light-heartedness that is usually seen on boys who are about to enter adulthood. They handled their Armalite rifles as if they were playing with ordinary toys of childhood.

It was a story that had to be told immediately without breaching the right of the children to privacy and self-respect. The photo in question underscored the need for the government and the MILF to come out with a lasting solution to the secessionist problem, lest more children get caught in the vortex of the conflict.

I would have felt uncomfortable though if the photo contained graphic details degrading their personality, like being shown to be enjoying the act of hurting or killing other people.

Some years back, I read in a foreign magazine the story of two Burmese or Cambodian teenagers leading a band of similarly aged youngsters who fought pitched battles against government troops.

The accompanying photo showed one of the teenagers smoking a cigar while holding by the hair the decapitated head of a man. He projected the image of a child who considers killing people a kind of game that should be enjoyed to its fullest. It was sickening and I felt the magazine strayed from the ethical rules when it published that photo.

With all due respect to the Council for the Welfare of Children, I do not think any rules on confidentiality or child welfare were violated by the INQUIRER when it published the picture of the two MILF child warriors.

* * *

The readers' advocate may be reached at the following address: "The Readers' Advocate" c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City. Or through fax nos. 897-4793 to 94, or readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.

The irony of conversion

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Noralyn Mustafa

DURING ONE TV newscast, as we listened transfixed to the reports about the mind-boggling list of Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia's worldly goods, came the story of a father in the throes of unbearable grief. His two sons aged 3 and 5 had died after he fed them with food that he had scavenged from the garbage.

From the few words he could mumble through his anguish, it was obvious that he saw the tragedy only as an accident. After all, scavenged food—collected from garbage pails—was what he had been feeding them for sometime. It was all he could bring them at day's end because he was jobless.

This is the true state of the nation.

The presidential candidate—who bullied a high school dropout into debating with her, a doctor of economics, to escape facing Raul Roco and Bro. Eddie Villanueva, packaged herself as our "last and best hope" (lifted from, of all things, a sci-fi space adventure television series) while she constantly flaunted her "learning curve" (gained from over three years of accidental presidency) against Fernando Poe Jr.'s "inexperience." She is, as usual, again in a state of denial about her newly won distinction as the "weakest leader in the Asia Pacific," and about her country's being ranked as the 11th most corrupt among 146 states.

During her first term, she blamed former President Joseph Estrada for everything bad that attended her governance, except the Jose Pidal account. Now she has summoned even the ghost of Ferdinand Marcos to take the blame for the country's present claim to infamy.

"What, me worry?" seems to be her credo now (it used to be "do your best, let God do the rest," remember?) as she breezily refuses to be distracted from her functions—reading speeches, issuing threats to whoever opposes her "reforms," viewing corpses of slain kidnap gang leaders, inspecting raided shabu laboratories, practicing dance steps for her alma mater's alumnae homecoming, doing aerobics, and through all these, making sure that there is not a single nick in her manicure.

She even goes out of her way to perform roles that can be delegated to others, like when she had to go scuba-diving to promote tourism in her favorite province, even risking the life of a Palace photographer who had to stay underwater as she leisurely meandered into a school of *danggit*. She really should have just left TV's resident mermaids, Ruffa Mae Quinto a.k.a. Dolphina and Claudine Barretto a.k.a. Marina, to do the job. Both are lovely and curvaceous enough not to be mistaken for mutant turtles.

But back to General Garcia, the icon of our present discontent and things to come, and Marcos, the ghost of sorrows past and of our present haunting.

Garcia, of course, belongs to the famous Philippine Military Academy Class of 1971, the same class that produced Gringo Honasan and Sen. Ping Lacson. Theirs was a unique batch that earned its place in our sordid history as the first PMA graduates of the martial law era; and wore out their first pair of combat boots in the battlefields of Mindanao and Sulu fighting the Moro National Liberation Front, where they confronted the realities of soldiery both at its best and at its most brutal.

But aside from that, they quickly learned they were the heirs-apparent to the thrones of kings who with their guns held the power over the life and death—and worldly goods—of a terrorized countryside. All they had to do was ask, or even just drop a hint, and anything would be given to them.

Cash and gold freely flowed into the hands of their senior officers. Political kingpins, many of them appointed by Marcos to replace duly elected officials whose faces he did not like, gifted them with cases of wine, the most delectable catch from the seas and the best harvest from the fields, and even parcels of land in exchange for being able to keep their power.

Businessmen who wanted to cement their hold on monopolies and to be spared from paying taxes and the right wages were an inexhaustible source of bounty for the military.

And what was not given, they looted. Or took for their own at the point of their guns. They looked at wealth as their birthright.

It was a good life, and many officers, even down to the rank of colonel, became millionaires while the powerless populace were disenfranchised and impoverished; some driven to starvation.

But added to all this, the military also fed upon itself, with millions budgeted daily for war materiel and supplies. The golden goose was "conversion."

The Magdalo officers somehow had a different definition of the term which now seems to befuddle lawmakers in the ongoing congressional investigation on military corruption.

Simply stated, conversion means converting supplies into cash. This practice is facilitated by suppliers who would issue a receipt for X number or volume of items, 20 to 30 percent of which would be actually delivered; but the cash allotted for the rest (undelivered) would remain in "safe hands" to be rechanneled into the pockets of corrupt officials.

Maybe, conversion will be better understood if a video clip of the Lamitan siege is shown: where the valiant Capt. Ruben Guinolbay, in stunned grief over the death of five of his men in that encounter, rather incoherently recounts that the soldiers based in the town had to share their ammunition with his newly arrived bullet-less unit. In the background lay a fallen soldier whose worn-out boots drove some viewers to tears.

Now that is a definition that even you and I can comprehend.

* * *

Comments by SMS to 09272535171 until new e-mail address is available.

Royal society

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

SOCIETY circles are agog over the dinner to be presided over by Chito Madrigal, Bea Zobel, Mary Prieto and Imelda Cojuangco, featuring Princess Caroline of Monaco and her husband, Prince Ernst August of Hanover. Readers of Paris Match and Hello! magazines are familiar with Princess Caroline, the eldest child of Prince Rainier of Monaco and his movie star wife, Grace Kelly. Caroline, after her mother's tragic death in an automobile accident became the "ceremonial (if unofficial) first lady" of Monaco. Along the way, she married twice (French banker and "playboy" Philippe Junot in 1978, divorced in 1980; and Italian industrialist, Stefano Casiraghi in 1983, who died in a motorboat accident in 1990). She was wedded to Prince Ernst in August 1999. Princess Caroline was ineligible to succeed her father, Prince Rainier, because the laws governing the House of Grimaldi (the ruling dynasty of Monaco) forbade women rulers. However, in 2002 the constitution of Monaco was amended allowing female successions in cases where the male heir has no children. So, for example, if Prince Albert, the son and heir apparent of Prince Rainier won't have kids, Princess Caroline will become the ruler of Monaco.

The stringent requirement for a male heir that governed the succession in Monaco for centuries is the Salic Law. It is called thus because it was codified by various German kings and dynasties, including the Salian Franks (called the Lex Salica, first compiled by Clovis I circa 508-11 AD). This body of laws became extremely influential as it was adopted by the Carolingian (Charlemagne and his successors) and Merovingian dynasties. The influence of this body of Germanic laws in countries outside Germany is best understood by the term Germans still use for France: Frankreich, or empire of the Franks.

And so it came to be that the ruling dynasties of France, first the Valoise and then the Bourbons, became the most prominent upholders of the Salic Law on succession, which was really a misenterpretation of the German laws: as the Columbia encyclopedia explains it, "provisions of the code forbade female succession to property but were not concerned with titles or offices." The extension of a law on property to titles and offices was, perhaps, inevitable considering the proprietary nature of those titles and offices for various ruling houses, or dynasties, of Europe. Again, in the case of France, this was always strictly enforced, which is why you didn't have cases of queens formally ruling France: mothers might have acted as regents for their sons, or pulled the strings behind the scenes, but always a male heir had to succeed to the throne (leading to lots of scheming and plotting whenever a king lacked sons or the sons of a king turned out sickly).

In 1700, the imbecile and sterile last Hapsburg ruler of Spain, Carlos II (ironically possessing the same name as Carlos I, founder of the Hapsburg dynasty in Spain and father of Philip II), who was an example of everything bad about royal inbreeding, died and willed the throne of Spain to the Duke of Anjou, a grandson of Louis XIV of France. Louis XIV accepted the throne for his grandson, triggering off the 13-year War of the Spanish Succession. The Hapsburgs in Austria, the older branch of the dynasty to which Carlos II belonged, felt they had a stronger claim to the Spanish throne and fought for it. Louis XIV managed to keep the throne of Spain for his grandson, but Spain lost what is today Belgium and Holland to Austria, as well as its territories in Italy to both Austria and the Kingdom of Savoy.

Filipinos might have heard of the Carlist Wars in Spain, which began because of the Salic Law: its requirements were set aside to allow Isabella II (who has a statue in Intramuros) to become Queen of Spain. Supporters of her uncle started a civil war and there are Carlists in Spain to this day.

In the case of Caroline of Monaco, her husband's family history was affected by the Salic Law.

Because sovereignty for centuries was considered to be incarnated in the person of the ruler and his family, Europe has many kingdoms ruled by foreign families. The royal houses of Great Britain have been, since the time of James I, foreign: the Stuarts, to which James I, Charles I and II, and James II, were Scots; William of Orange was from Holland; then the crown passed on to the Elector of Hanover (elector because he had the hereditary privilege of being one of those who could vote for the elected Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire), George of Brunswick-Lüneburg in 1718. The first George of England (great-grandson of James I), in fact, didn't know, and didn't bother to learn, English. It was only his grandson, George III (in whose reign America revolted), who could properly be called English in mannerisms and speech.

George III went intermittently insane, and eventually his son, for many years proclaimed regent, became George IV. He died without children, so his brother succeeded him as William IV, who also died without children in 1837. The result was that George IV's and William IV's niece, Victoria, became Queen of Great Britain. At this point, the Salic Law kicked in: the House of Hanover could continue in Britain under a woman, but could only be headed by a man in Hanover. An uncle of Queen Victoria, Ernst Augustus, youngest son of George III of England, became King of Hanover. In 1866, Ernst Augustus' son, George V, sided with Austria in a war against Prussia. They lost; Prussia annexed Hanover, and the last King of Hanover decided to call himself the Prince of Cumberland. This is the family, throneless since 1866, to which Ernst August, husband of Caroline, belongs.

* * *

Comments welcome at www.quezon.ph

THEY SAID

Dealing with disability

"I refuse to allow a disability to determine how I live my life. I don't mean to be reckless, but setting a goal that seems a bit daunting actually is very helpful toward recovery."

—Late Hollywood actor Christopher Reeve, on his life after being paralyzed in an accident

High oil prices

"It would be imprudent for the public to expect that all this would be resolved anytime soon. We have to adopt a mentality that we have to live with these prices."

—John Vautrain, vice president of Texas-based energy consultants Purvin & Gertz, on soaring crude oil prices

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A way out of the 'oil crisis'

THE GOVERNMENT should give priority to minimizing the impact of the endless series of gasoline price increases. Feeling so helpless as we read about the problem in the newspapers every day, we can only wish this "nightmare"—which makes Filipinos poorer every day—to end.

There must be a way out of it.

First of all, the government should buy back its majority shares in Petron, one of the big oil players. After acquiring the majority stocks, the government will have a say in Petron's decisions, and thus can prevent it from increasing the prices of its oil products. If an oil price increase in the world market is too big to ignore, Petron can raise its price to a reasonable level (not follow the greedy oil companies), just to spare itself from losses. Since Petron will command the lowest gasoline price, naturally most motorists will patronize its gasoline dealers. This will translate into much higher revenues which will offset its low price.

This was the ideal atmosphere envisioned by our government when it decided for oil deregulation, but unfortunately this has not come to pass because of the greed of the oil companies which have practically banded themselves together into an "oil cartel." In Los Angeles, Arco, an oil company which has one of the lowest priced gasoline, is being patronized by most motorists who now have to line up for refueling.

My other proposal is to drastically lower the government's share of royalty and the taxes imposed on energy companies (oil, gas, geothermal, etc.) to entice more foreign companies to explore our natural energy resources here. Our country is very rich in oil, geothermal and gas, among other things, but all these natural wealth will be useless if they remain untapped.

If we don't open our doors to these foreign companies, we will be like fools sitting on a gold mine but penniless.

—RICARDO U. FERNANDO,
3768 Aster Rd., Sun Valley,
Parañaque City

Abolishing Congress by prayer

I AM with lawyer Romulo Makalintal in his proposal to abolish Congress for three years. (PDI, 10/8/04)

It is an impossible dream, but if the Filipino people unite to pray with all their strength, mind, heart and soul for God's intervention to make this dream a reality, God's will be done.

—ISIDORO A. PANLASIGUI JR.,
6 Bighorseshoe Drive,
Bighorseshoe Village,
Quezon City

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

False accusations against a murder victim

OUR family is going through unfathomable grief because of the sudden and violent death of our beloved son, Stephen Ong, last Sept. 26. He did nothing but go out with the father (deceased Arturo Tabara) of his fiancée, Rosa Aurora, to buy a plane ticket to return to Dumaguete to take the final exams at Silliman University. He had gone to Manila for a weekend visit to Aurora who just gave birth to their baby boy.

The accusation made by those who have admitted responsibility for his murder—that he was armed and resisted arrest—has added to our pain which is already too much for us to bear. Our family and the friends and schoolmates of Stephen know that he was not even involved in student politics. How then could he have learned to handle a gun?

We owe it to our son to clear his name in public. We appeal to all those who know the truth about Stephen to please help us put a stop to the injustices and false accusations against him.

—MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM ONG

Is Marikina mayor anti-poor?

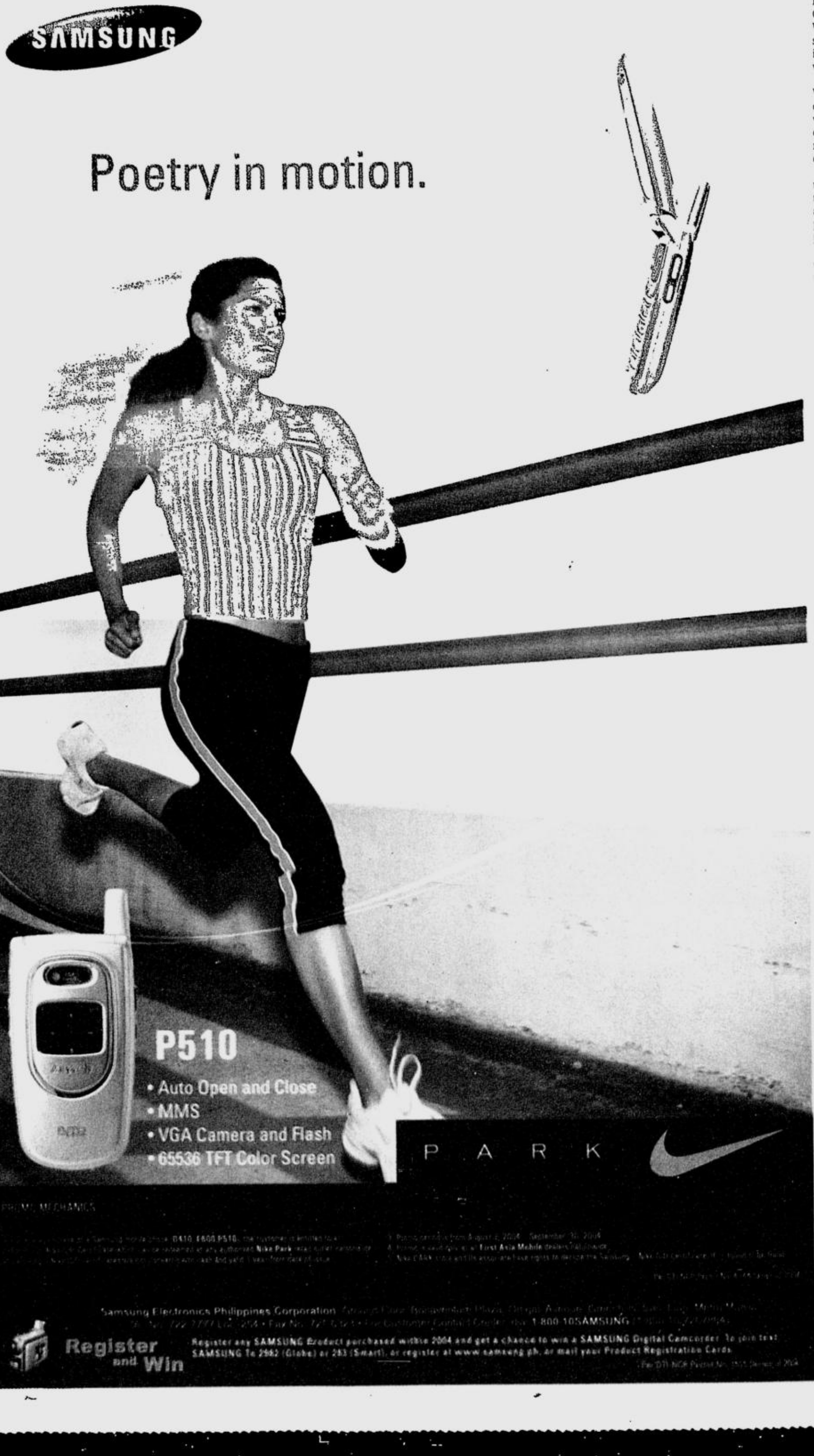
I'M a businessman. Last Sept. 27, 2004, I went to the Marikina City Hall to pay realty taxes. I was wearing decent walking shorts and rubber shoes. The guard barred me from entering because of my attire. He also barred other people who were wearing rubber slippers.

I'm not aware of any law that prohibits a citizen from paying taxes because he is wearing shorts, even a decent one. I go to the malls, eat in restaurants and even go abroad wearing shorts.

What's wrong with wearing shorts? This is a tropical country. If someone like me cannot enter city hall, how about the poor people who cannot dress decently and who need its services more?

Is Marikina Mayor Marides Fernando anti-poor?

—RICK BAUTISTA,
Marikina City



Bush's dubious leadership

FOR Richard M. Nixon there was CREEP—Committee for the Reelection of the President. Watergate was strictly an American affair pursued with plain burglary. No one got killed and it was of no great concern for the rest of the world.

For George W. Bush, it has to be WARP—War of America for the Reelection of the President. This time Iraq-gate is of global concern, with thousands already killed; and the body count still mounting, thus aggravating animosities which have shakened political and economic stability worldwide.

Conceived in deception, WARP recruited unwary nations—so aptly named the "Coalition of the Willing"—to participate in an illegal and immoral war. Willing but far from being principled, and certainly providing shaky support for a warped pursuit.

Ghoulishly anchoring his reelection strategy on the 9/11 tragedy, Bush basks in the spectacle of mass destruction wrought against the people of Afghanistan by "Superpower America." Final victory eluded him and he shunned the prospect of cave-to-cave warfare. He then decided that the legitimate Afghan war be supplemented with an illegal Iraq war—or WARP.

Would "strong leader" Bush proudly point out that the advent of embedded journalists "happened in my watch"? That undoubtedly encouraged theatrics like the fictional daring operation to rescue Pvt. Jessica Lynch; the dramatic landing of the commander in chief on an aircraft carrier to announce "mission accomplished"; and the commander in chief so magnanimously substituting himself for the troops' loved ones in an intimate Thanksgiving Day observance in Iraq. But Lynch, evidently in keeping with the good old American sense of truth and fair play, belied the rescue story; "mission accomplished" only presaged "Accomplishment Under Siege" as the US death toll rose and more than trebled; and the ostentatious Thanksgiving Day gesture of Bush was seen as a caricature of George Washington and his men's bitter winter bivouac at Valley Forge.

WARP has so warped Bush's faculties that he is now in the throes of self-contradictions. He harps on his country's need for his leadership to win the war on terror, but he recently said he "did not think America could win" that war. He has always expressed confidence in the Central Intelligence Agency, but he derided it when it warned of a possible civil war in Iraq. He repeatedly claimed steady gains for Iraq's future, then he admitted it is in "deadly chaos," demanding that the United Nations "do more to help it."

Without his graver faults in WARP, even just his performance to help resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict proves his dubious leadership.

—ENRIQUE F. RECEDE,
115-F Doña Nieves St.,
Angono, Rizal

No to another dictator

WHEN the leaders of the failed Oakwood mutiny apologized to President Macapagal-Arroyo and appealed for another chance to serve the nation, I could not help but entertain serious doubts about their sincerity. This scenario fits into the penchant of President Arroyo to seize every opportunity to grab the limelight, at the expense of the Filipino people's well-being. Some reports say that the President even visited the "contrite" coup leaders before the photo opportunity.

It is said that we Filipinos are a forgiving lot. In truth, we are masochists and literally allow the hammer to repeatedly fall on our heads. Former President Cory Aquino had to face eight coup attempts by elements of the military who were backed by unscrupulous politicians out to grab power. The last foiled coup attempt against her devastated our economy which was then recovering. Since then, we have not fully recovered from the serious setback.

With the latest deception, we should brace ourselves for renewed coup attempts. Rex Robles, a former coup plotter and a member of the Feliciano Commission tasked to look into the Oakwood mutiny, said that a thousand new recruits have joined a rebellious group in the military. Prof. Carolina Hernandez, a presidential adviser and another member of the Feliciano Commission, warned that granting amnesty to the Oakwood mutiny leaders will only encourage future military adventures.

The right way to treat the Oakwood mutineers and future coup plotters is to bring them to justice. Civilian backers of coup attempts should be similarly dealt with.

If we really love our country, we should not allow another dictatorship.

—QUINTIN GOMEZ,
San Fernando, Pampanga

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Prosecutors back out of Yongco case

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—The government prosecutors handling the murder case of lawyer Arbet Sta. Ana-Yongco are backing out of the case amid intense public scrutiny over their performance.

They asked the Department of Justice to send to Cebu a special prosecution team to handle the case to avoid being accused of being biased in favor of the accused, a member of the Philippine Benevolent Missionaries Association (PBMA), headed by cult leader Ruben Ecleo Jr.

City Prosecutor Cezar Tajanlangit and Assistant Regional State Prosecutor Vicente Mañalac announced their plan on Saturday, a day after lawyer Gloria Dalawampu, who was handpicked by the Bacolod family to take over from Yongco as private prosecutor in the Ecleo parricide case, also withdrew from the case against the alleged gunman in the Yongco murder case.

At the time of her death, Yongco was the private prosecutor in the parricide case against Ecleo for the murder of his wife, Alona Bacolod-Ecleo, fueling allegations that the Ecleo had a hand in her murder.

Yongco, 37, was shot four times by a lone gunman at around 8:45 a.m. of Oct. 11 at her office located at the ground floor of her house in Barangay Zapatera here. She died a few minutes later at the Perpetual Succor Hospital.

Ecleo, through his chief legal counsel, Orlando Salantandre, has vehemently denied the allegation.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez was irked when told by the INQUIRER yesterday that Tajanlangit and Mañalac wanted out of the case. He said he instead have them investigated for their "singing session" with the defense lawyer and murder suspect Michael Favila inside the Cebu City prosecutors' office on Thursday.

The sing-along session, meant to diffuse tension, fueled public outcry and criticism against Dalawampu and the government prosecutors for "singing with the enemy." This prompted Dalawampu to decide against handling the Yongco case.

The singing session participated in by Dalawampu, Salatandre, Tajanlangit and Favila took place after Favila agreed to sign a waiver of detention during the preliminary investigation so that he could be placed in the custody of the NBI without any legal problem.

Gonzalez said Tajanlangit and other government prosecutors should not abandon their responsibility to handle the case because of negative public sentiments.

"Then they should prove to the public that the perception is wrong; that they are doing their job properly. *Kung ganyan lang pala . . . kapag may konting atake sa iyo tatakbo ka na* (If you retreat amid criticisms), you are not up to the job," he said.

Gonzalez said prosecutors are not prohibited from fraternizing with those from the opposite side but they should also know when they have overstepped the bound of legal ethics.

Gonzalez said he would evaluate Tajanlangit's request but would relieve Mañalac as one of the members of the panel handling the Yongco murder case because of his "irresponsible statements" that showed his bias for the PBMA.

Gonzalez even challenged Mañalac to resign from his job and apply as defense counsel for Favila. Mañalac earlier said he wanted to give up the case because he did not believe Favila was Yongco's killer.

Groups hit 'secret' mining pact

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—Environmentalists here denounced the alleged concealment of an agreement between environment and local officials on a proposed mining project by an Australian company in Kasibu town.

Samuel Balinhawang, vice chair of the Alliance of Community Development Advocates (Acda), said it was "irregular" that the memorandum of agreement on the application of Climax Arimco Mining Corp. (CAMC) seemed to have been hidden from the public.

"There seems to be deception because the major players in this mining issue practically do not know anything about the signing," Balinhawang said.

The Contingency Liability Rehabilitation Fund (CLRF) agreement is one of the requirements in the new environmental compliance certificate (ECC) granted to CAMC on Aug. 5.

This is in connection with the company's revived application to conduct large-scale mining in Barangay Didipio in Kasibu.

The village is the site of Dinkidi hill, where an estimated 4 million ounces of gold and 1.5 billion ounces of copper deposits said to be worth $2.2 billion, were discovered.

An official here said the signing of the CLRF agreement was secretly but hastily processed by groups pushing the mining project, and was signed by each party within two weeks.

Signatories include governors Luisa Lloren Cuaresma (Nueva Vizcaya) and Pedro Bacani (Quirino), CAMC chair Jose Leviste Jr., Cagayan Valley environment director Antonio Principe, Mines and Geosciences Bureau director Jerrysal Mangaoang, Environmental Management Bureau director Alan Leuterio, and non-government organization representatives Evelyn Liborio and Andres Blando.

Under the MOA, CAMC agrees to put up a "mine rehabilitation fund (MRF)" which shall be in the form of a "monitoring trust fund (MTF)" worth P50,000 and "rehabilitation cash fund" of at least P5 million.

Balinhawang said they were concerned that the agreement might be used to rally support for the mining project, and give the public the impression that it had been given favorable endorsement by concerned officials.

"We maintain our stand that this mining project has yet to get favorable endorsement from all local development councils before they [are] allowed to operate," he said.

Lourdes Dolinen, CAMC community affairs and environment manager, said she did not know about the agreement, and had yet to see a copy of it.

Roberto Apigo, provincial environment officer, also said he was not aware of any MOA that had been signed.

Mangaoang said "The MGB, being a government agency, shall always be transparent."

Melvin Gascon, PDI Central Luzon Desk

High copra price in Davao

MATI, Davao Oriental—The high selling price of copra has discouraged farmers in 11 towns in the province from cutting coconut trees for commercial purposes.

Jonelito Vicente, provincial head of the Philippine Coconut Authority, said the price of copra in the province, has now reached P22 a kilo from a low of P4 a kilo in the early 1990s.

"They (farmers) have found it to be more lucrative to plant more coconut trees than [to cut] them off to sell its wood," Vicente said.

"There is now a huge demand for coconut oil in the world market. Copra buyers in the country have jacked up their buying rates," he added.

A multinational copra-buying firm, Cargill, recently put up facilities here to compete with the country's largest copra buyer, International Copra Export Corp., which has been operating in the province for more than 30 years.

Vicente said the province has an annual average output of at least 250,000 metric tons of copra. But he expects the annual coconut production in the country to decrease because the PCA has stopped its free fertilizer program due to lack of funds.

Ferdinand Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau

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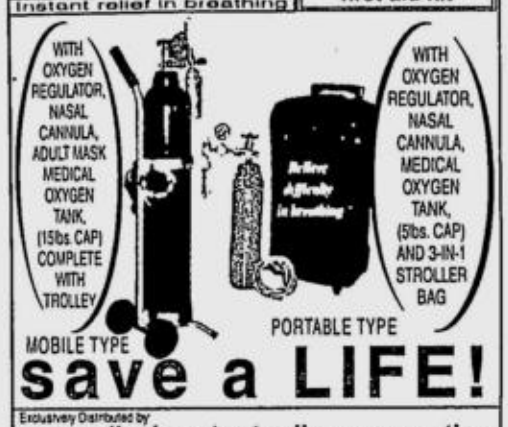

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Organic, toxic wastes poison Zambales bays

By Allan Macatuno
PDI Central Luzon Desk

MASINLOC, Zambales—Organic wastes and toxic substances are poisoning the Masinloc and Oyon bays along the 100-km stretch of the Zambales coastline, one of the main fishing grounds in Central Luzon, according to the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources.

BFAR officials have warned of an impending tragedy as congested illegal fish cages contribute to the pollution, aggravating the already deteriorating water quality of the Oyon Bay marine reserve area here and in nearby Palauig town.

Remedios Ongtangco, BFAR regional director, said a fish health monitoring team from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources conducted water quality tests in the bay recently and discovered that higher levels of unionized ammonia, often referred to as toxic ammonia, were present in the water.

Citing a DENR status report released in September, Ongtangco said the detected toxic ammonia was much higher in concentration compared to the previous monitoring results.

"We strongly suspect that this could be attributed to excessive feed inputs, accumulation of organic wastes and decomposing fish scattered in cage sites," she said during a dialogue with fish cage owners here.

She cautioned local fishermen and fish cage operators against frequent occurrences of massive fish kills, similar to what happened to Bolinao, Pangasinan, in recent years.

She said the rise in the number of illegal fish cages since 2002 has also damaged the coral reefs of the Masinloc and Oyon bays. The water has also turned brownish and has foul odor.

The marine reserve of Oyon Bay has been declared a protected area under the National Integrated Protected Area System (Nipas), and is governed by the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB).

Ongtangco said the establishment of fish cages within the protected area was illegal and undermined the Nipas law.

A DENR study showed that owners of fish cages and pens in the area were operating without the required environmental compliance certificate and a permit from the PAMB.

Masinloc and Palauig officials have issued permits or lease contracts to the fish cage operators.

The report also said the "chess board type" of positioning of cages is practiced in the area. The cages are arranged such that they are congested in a particular site, resulting in an interference on tidal currents.

This type of cage arrangement, the report said, limits water circulation and hinders the diffusion of oxygen into the water.

"Prolonged exposure of fish to low dissolved oxygen level causes stress to the fish and may develop into chronic diseases which eventually result (in) fish mortality," the report said.

It said 33 fish cage owners are operating in the Masinloc and Oyon bays while 164 circular and rectangular fish cages were built in the area.

"Milkfish is the primary species being cultured with stocking densities reaching as high as 70,000 pieces per cage," the report said.

The water quality monitoring was conducted on Feb. 7 and July 21 in 12 established sampling stations on the proposed mariculture park in this town.

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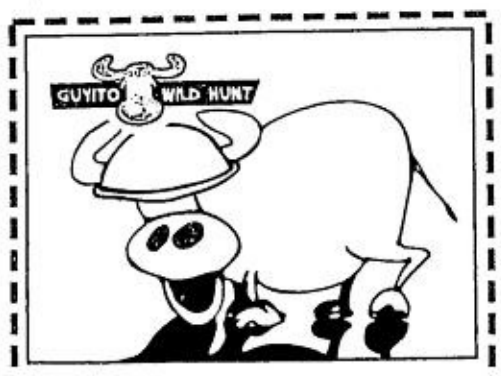

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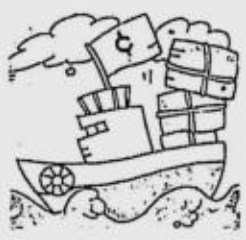

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—A Singaporean cargo vessel began its maiden voyage here on Oct. 22, marking a milestone in the revitalized trade relations between the Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East Asian Growth Area.

MV Pacific Envoy, a fully containerized import-export cargo vessel operated by the Singapore-based Pacific Eagle Lines Pte. Ltd., will be arriving at the city's port every two weeks. Mayor Pedro Acharon Jr. told reporters here that local businessmen could now avail of the cheaper cost of shipping their products to other areas. Shipping rates from here to Manila is much expensive than shipping the same kind and volume of cargo from here to Taiwan. *Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

1 killed in gunfire

COTABATO CITY—A person died while a couple suffered injury when unidentified men fired at a house in a remote village of Midsayap, North Cotabato last Monday, police said. Senior Insp. Jobet Colaway, Midsayap police chief, said about 15 men, armed with Garand and Carbine rifles, opened fire on the house owned by the Guiamal family of Barangay Malinao. Killed on the spot was Odin Sayongco, who was living with the couple. He said the Guiamal couple, Dacungan and her husband Tison were injured in the attack. Police have yet to establish the motive for the attack. *Charlie Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

DENR employee held

BAGUIO CITY—National Bureau of Investigation agents on Thursday arrested an employee of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources here for asking money from a woman to expedite judgement in a land dispute case. Reports said Pedro Lomerez, special investigator of the DENR's Land Management Services, was caught on videotape in a restaurant here receiving P2,000 in marked money from Lolyn Rivera-Garcia to help settle the land dispute case involving her aunt. Garcia said Lomerez earlier asked P2,500 in exchange for a favorable action on a case involving a disputed property of her aunt in Quezon Hill here. She said the case had dragged on for two years without result. Lomerez, she said, was demanding P5,000 from her.

Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Cop dies in gunfight

TAGUDIN, Ilocos Sur—A policeman died after he engaged a fellow policeman in a gunfight in the town's police station on Wednesday night. Senior Supt. Mario Subagan, Ilocos Sur police director, said the fatality, PO1 Marvin Llanes, and PO1 Jojo Manlaoan had a quarrel in the station's kitchen, resulting in the shootout. Subagan said the policemen were close friends and classmates during their police training. According to Manlaoan, Llanes first drew his 9mm service handgun, shot him and missed. Manlaoan said this gave him the opportunity to draw his .45 cal. gun and return fire. Llanes suffered a bullet wound in the face. *Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

R. Pilando; 55

BAGUIO CITY—Former Mt. Province Rep. Roy Pilando died of complications of *cardiomyo* fatigue or enlargement of the heart on Thursday at the Philippine Heart Center. He was 55. A lawyer since 1975, Pilando was elected Mt. Province vice governor in 1980. He also served as governor. He was the province's representative for one term in the 12th Congress and helped revive the peace talks between the government and the National Democratic Front as House special envoy to Norway last year. His body was taken to his family house at Quirino Hill here. Interment will be announced later.

Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Camiguin town bounces back from tragedy

MAMBAJAO, Camiguin—Hardly any trace of the tragedy that hit Camiguin in 2001, is left these days in the province known for its scenic beaches and sweet *lanzones*.

On Nov. 6, 2001, more than 200 people all over the province perished when flash floods, triggered by twisters, swept hundreds of houses.

The province became the center of the nation's attention for quite some time.

But as officials put it, life must go on and Camiguin should move forward.

For days now, the people of Camiguin were in high spirits as this year's Lanzones Festival kicked off.

Crowd-drawer

Now on its 25th year, the festival remains a crowd-drawer.

Lanzones lovers from all over the country flock here to taste what is touted as the sweetest *lanzones* in the Philippines.

Catalino Chan, provincial tourism officer, told the INQUIRER that this year's celebration was more pompous.

He said for the street dancing competition alone, at least 14 contingents from Mindanao and the Visayas competed for large prizes.

The provincial government and the private sector pooled at least P3 million for the festivities, he added.

He said the provincial government launched on Saturday the Lanzones Research Center, which would conduct studies on how to improve the fruit's variety and to teach modern farming methods.

Wine made from *lanzones*, which locals have started to produce, will also be targeted for improvement by the research center.

Chan said aside from attending the festivals, visitors were also urged to experience the province's beaches and its diving sites.

7th best dive site

Camiguin has been declared the 7th best dive site in the country with at least five areas to boast of.

These are the Hijduc shoal, Burias shoal, white island, Tangub, Cantaan and the 200-year old Sunken cemetery.

Chan did not specify how many visitors flocked here in time for the festival but said at least 28 percent of them were foreigners.

As more visitors troop here, Chan said the schedule of the 10 ferries servicing Misamis Oriental and Camiguin had been altered.

"Once the ferry is full, it has to go to avoid overloading and accommodate the waiting passengers in Balingoan Port," he said.

Chan said security has also been tightened with the arrival of ranking government officials, including Tourism Secretary Ace Durano and Environment Secretary Michael Defensor. *Grace Cantal-Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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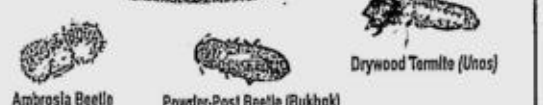

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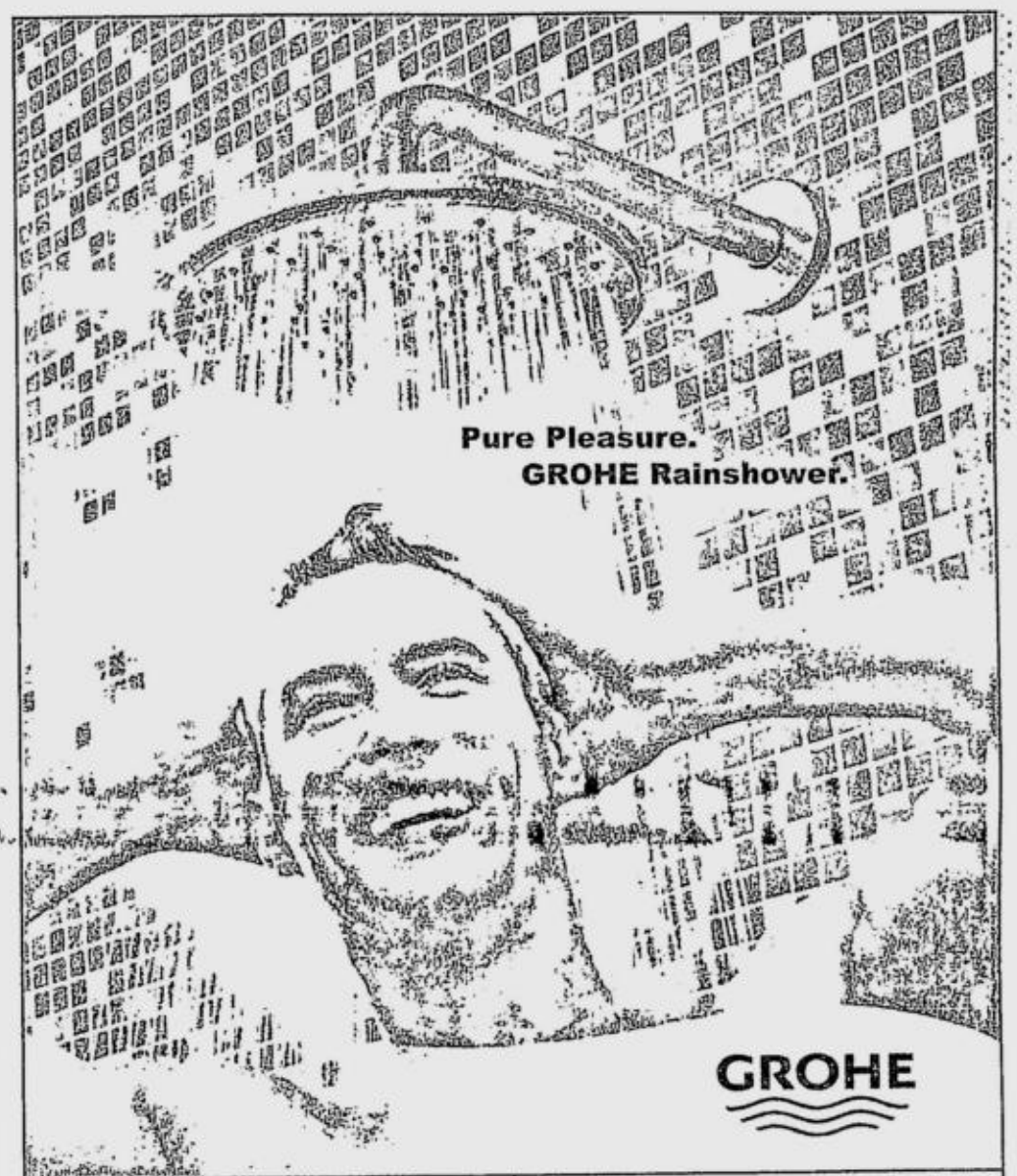

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By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

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Congratulations to the Winners

Oil / Acrylic

1st Place: Froilan U. Calayag, Technological University of the Philippines
2nd Place: Allan Jay R. Balisi, Far Eastern University
3rd Place: Joven R. Mansit, University of the Philippines - Diliman
Honorable Mention: Jigger P. Cruz, Far Eastern University
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Honorable Mention: Edgardo B. Pantoni, Jr. Technological University of the Philippines

Watercolor

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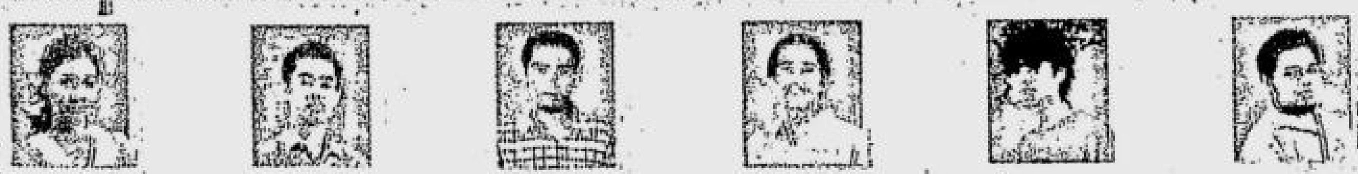

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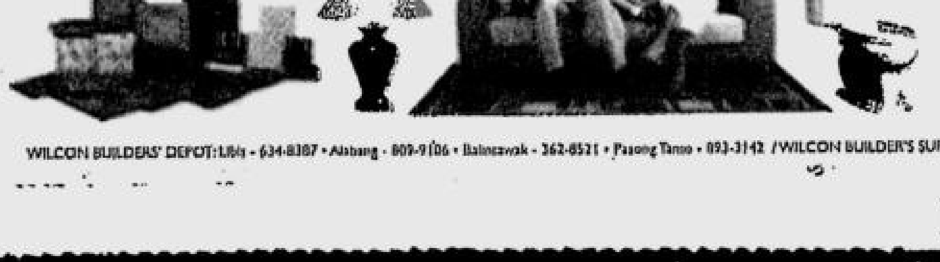

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US think . . .

From page A1

The deep animosity that the pullout of the Filipino contingent from the coalition's occupation forces in Iraq had engendered in Washington is comparable to the US resentment over the Philippine decision in 1991 to eject the American military bases in Clark and Subic. For several years after the pullout of the bases, the Philippines was consigned by the Pentagon to the pit of a non-grata state.

The Heritage Foundation's commentary was clearly provoked by the breach of solidarity of Manila with its allies in the war on Iraq. Every now and then, similar foundations make it a part of the justification of their existence to assess foreign political leaders in their bid to shape the foreign policy of countries that they seek to influence.

Criteria used

When a think tank makes a judgment on a foreign leader, it is important to examine the criteria it used in concluding that a leader is weak. Heritage's criteria reflect Washington's point of view criticizing the Philippine decision.

The criteria are revealed by several passages of the Heritage commentary.

"She (President Arroyo) is an equal opportunity weakling," Heritage commentary said. "The longer her administration makes foreign policy for the Philippines, the more it seems that threats from terrorists and regional bullies influence her more than diplomatic and financial aid from Manila's friends and allies."

"On question after question, she has changed policies to put her and her erstwhile allies into weaker positions. At this point, she must be considered the weakest leader in the region," the commentary added.

"Over the last few months, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has allowed Iraqi terrorists to determine the location, mission and staying power of her nation's military commitments."

These arguments are a tiresome repetition of official Washington statements following Manila's decision to pull out of Iraq—all of which never failed to remind the Philippines that it had been a beneficiary of US military and economic aid.

More scathing

The tirade against the Philippines has been more scathing, venomous and patronizing than the US rebuke to France, which fiercely opposed the US invasion of Iraq at the UN Security Council, and to the Socialist government in Spain, which made good its decision to withdraw Spanish troops from Iraq after the Spanish election in March following the murderous terrorist bombing of commuter trains in Madrid.

Neither Heritage nor US President George W. Bush branded French President Jacques Chirac and Spain's Socialist leader Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero a "weakling." They were not branded as such because neither Washington nor Heritage could pick on and bully Chirac, Zapatero or German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder.

On the other hand, Washington has historically found the Philippines easy picking, believing that its dependence on foreign aid would made it docile.

Heritage's measure of a strong or weak leaders is whether he/she is strong enough to promote the foreign policy interests of the United States in the war on terror. Foreign policy interests of Philippine allies in the war on terrorism do not always coincided with Philippine domestic interests, as illustrated by the withdrawal of the Filipino contingent from Iraq.

The best judge of a weak or strong leadership in the Philippines are the Filipinos themselves—not foreign think tanks. They are the ones affected by their leadership's decisions.

Strong leadership, in my book, is the capacity of a government to push controversial policies and programs, and to get things done. It is this definition of leadership that is relevant and important to Filipinos.

Realistic assessment

From this perspective, we can derive a more realistic assessment of the weaknesses and strengths of the Arroyo administration.

While the Arroyo administration has shown a capacity not to follow blindly the policy preferences of our foreign allies, it has failed to exercise strong leadership in mobilizing political support for very urgent reform measures and programs intended to attack the most critical problem facing the republic—the fiscal deficit and the debt crisis.

Ms Arroyo has been diverted from attacking this issue vigorously by her tendency to compromise with her political allies so as to preserve her coalition upon which the survival of her regime depends.

The President and her political allies have shifted the focus of the fiscal crisis to subsidiary issues, such as trading off revenue-enhancing tax measures with saving the pork barrel that cements her alliances.

Ms Arroyo seems to have underestimated the reserve powers of the presidency and her own electoral mandate—albeit still being challenged—to push through her reforms. From this perspective of getting things done, the President is weak.

The test of a strong presidency cannot be defined by foreigners. It is determined by the Filipinos people's judgment of whether Ms Arroyo is using the powers of her office to promote the general public good.

Five months after the inauguration of President Arroyo, these powers are languishing in her hands. In this respect, she is a weak leader—but not in the way Heritage defines weakness.

'Taba' cops must read 'The Purpose Driven Life'

From page A1

The international bestseller, "The Purpose Driven Life," by American Baptist pastor Rick Warren has become required reading for Taba cops, the infamous crop of incorrigible policemen.

Philippine National Police Director General Edgar Aglipay has ordered the book's distribution among trainees of the two police reformatory schools now operating in Luzon.

The schools, one in the Subic Freeport and another in Buguias, Benguet, are where erring officers aptly labeled by Aglipay as Taba (*Tamad, Abusado, Bastos, Ayaw padisiplina*) or lazy, abusive, discourteous and incorrigible are sent.

Besides strenuous physical activities, Taba cops now have to read "The Purpose Driven Life," if only to keep their values in check, according to the PNP chief.

"Even if we have the best policemen and the best investigators, their expertise would be for naught if their values, perspective and mentality are warped," Aglipay told reporters in Filipino.

"What we want are policemen who can apply everything they had learned as police officers even when they're no longer part of the PNP," he said, adding: "Technical knowledge without good moral foundation is dangerous because it could be used against people."

To Aglipay's mind, "The Purpose Driven Life" can help policemen who had gone astray get back on the right track.

Today, 100 Taba cops will graduate from the PNP reformatory school in Subic, the second batch to complete the monthlong training. The first batch of 36 cops from Metro Manila completed the course last month.

Banking on the relative success of his Taba program, Aglipay late last week opened a similar facility in Buguias town, a five-hour drive from Baguio.

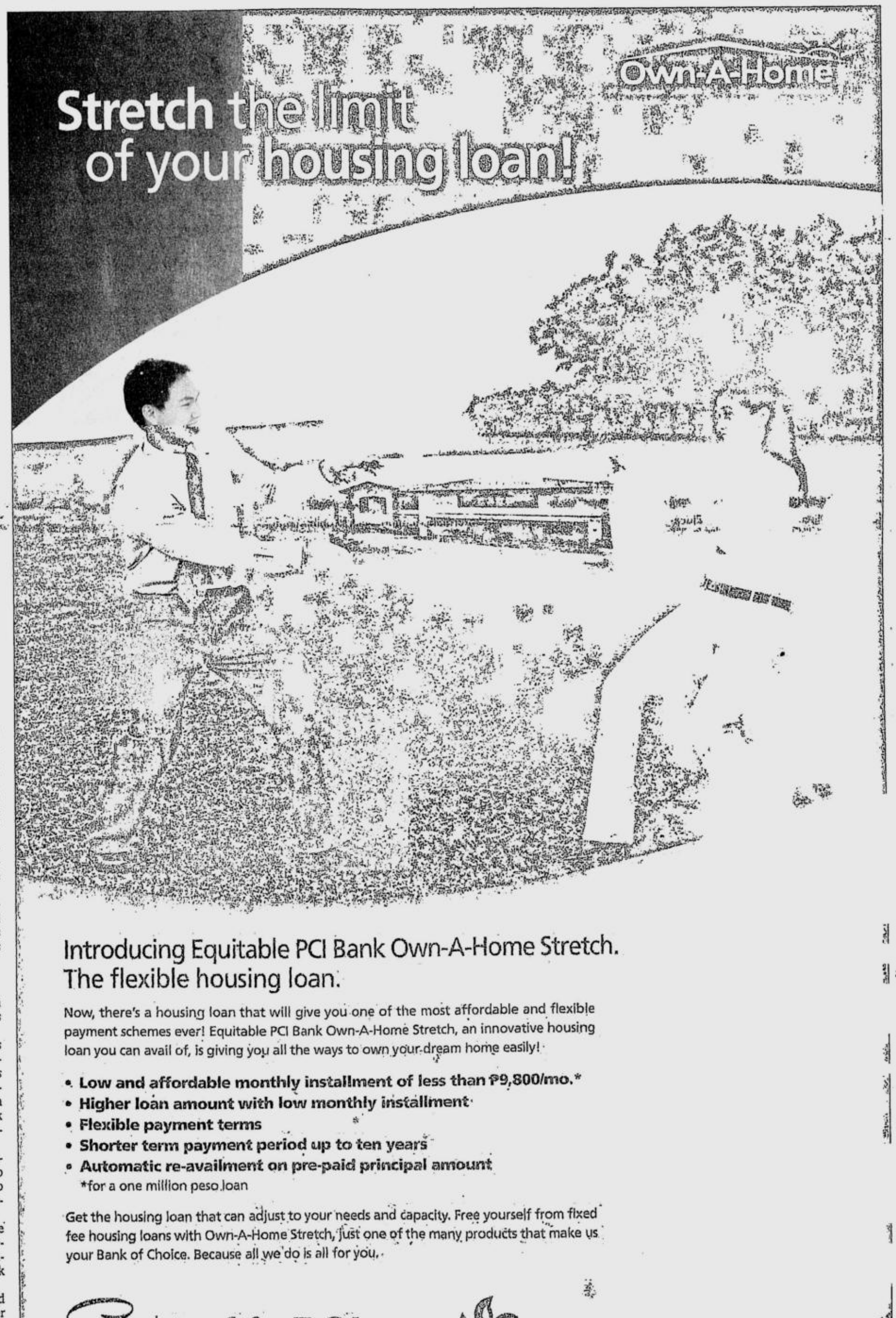
The school will house Taba cops from the Ilocos and Cagayan Valley regions and the Cordillera Administrative Region. Its first class of 50 trainees is set to complete the course on Nov. 26.

At least two other Taba schools will be constructed within the year in the Visayas and Mindanao.

Aglipay is also eyeing a reformatory facility either in Central Visayas or Bicol for Taba men from the region, and another one in Region 11 for those from Mindanao.

"Our plan is to institutionalize this program so we'll be able to keep our policemen in good physical and moral shape," he said.

TABA cops on their way to training camp. JOAN BONDOC



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5-31 SALE

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General doesn't own resort, says father-in-law

From page A1

at the Depakakibo residence in Barangay Pulao in this town.

Quillion was among the first wave of laborers from Iloilo who went to Guam in 1950 and later became American citizens. After he acquired US citizenship, his family joined him in the United States and all became American citizens.

Quillion said he returned to his hometown in 1982 but kept his American citizenship.

Garcia's wife Clarita, a nurse and the youngest of the Depakakibo children, first met Garcia at a military base in Norfolk, Virginia, where he had gone for schooling, said Quillion.

"It's so sad that the fruits of my hard work would be suspected as being part of ill-gotten wealth," he said.

He said he bought the land on which the resort stands from his maternal grandfather using the money he had earned in Guam.

"Daday's (Clarita's nickname) properties here could not be separated from that of the family because we help each other," said Quillion.

He said the corporation his family created for the resort was named after his grandsons—Clarita's children—because they were his favorite grandchildren.

IJT Katamnan Corp. owns the three-hectare farm resort. The first three letters represent the names of Clarita's children—Ian Carl, 26, Juan Paulo, 23, and Timothy Mark, 21.

Feneno said the house in Ohio was actually owned by his sister, Ledie Depakakibo-Cristales.

The house was reported to be among Garcia's real estate holdings frozen by the US government, along with a $765,000 condominium and a $750,000 apartment, both in New York.

General rarely comes

Quillion said Garcia rarely came to the resort and when he did, it was only for a short visit.

Feneno said the resort was being managed by his brother-in-law, Bert Jorinaro, who was the husband of his sister, Felipa. He said the Jorinaros were based in the United States but Bert had been running the resort for over a year now.

Feneno said he himself had chosen to live in Dumangas, with his wife and three small children, so he could manage the family-owned 40-ha farm.

Garcia's defenders

Quillion and Feneno said they had not seen or talked to the Garcia couple since the controversy broke out, and that they hoped the Garcias would be given due process and not be tried through public opinion.

Residents of Pulao, a village in this town 42 km northeast of Iloilo City, also came to the defense of Clarita and her family.

The neighbors of the Depakakibos said allegations that several pieces of property in the town were part of the Garcias' alleged ill-gotten wealth were "untrue."

"The Depakakibos were already landed and rich even before Clarita met General Garcia," a resident said.

Other residents readily pointed to pieces of land which they said were owned by the Depakakibo clan, including cousins and other relatives.

School donors

To prove that the family was the richest in the village, the residents brought the INQUIRER to the Pulao Elementary School. There the names of Clarita's parents, Quillion Depakakibo Sr. and his late wife Soledad, were etched on the entrance as donors of the school's concrete and iron gate.

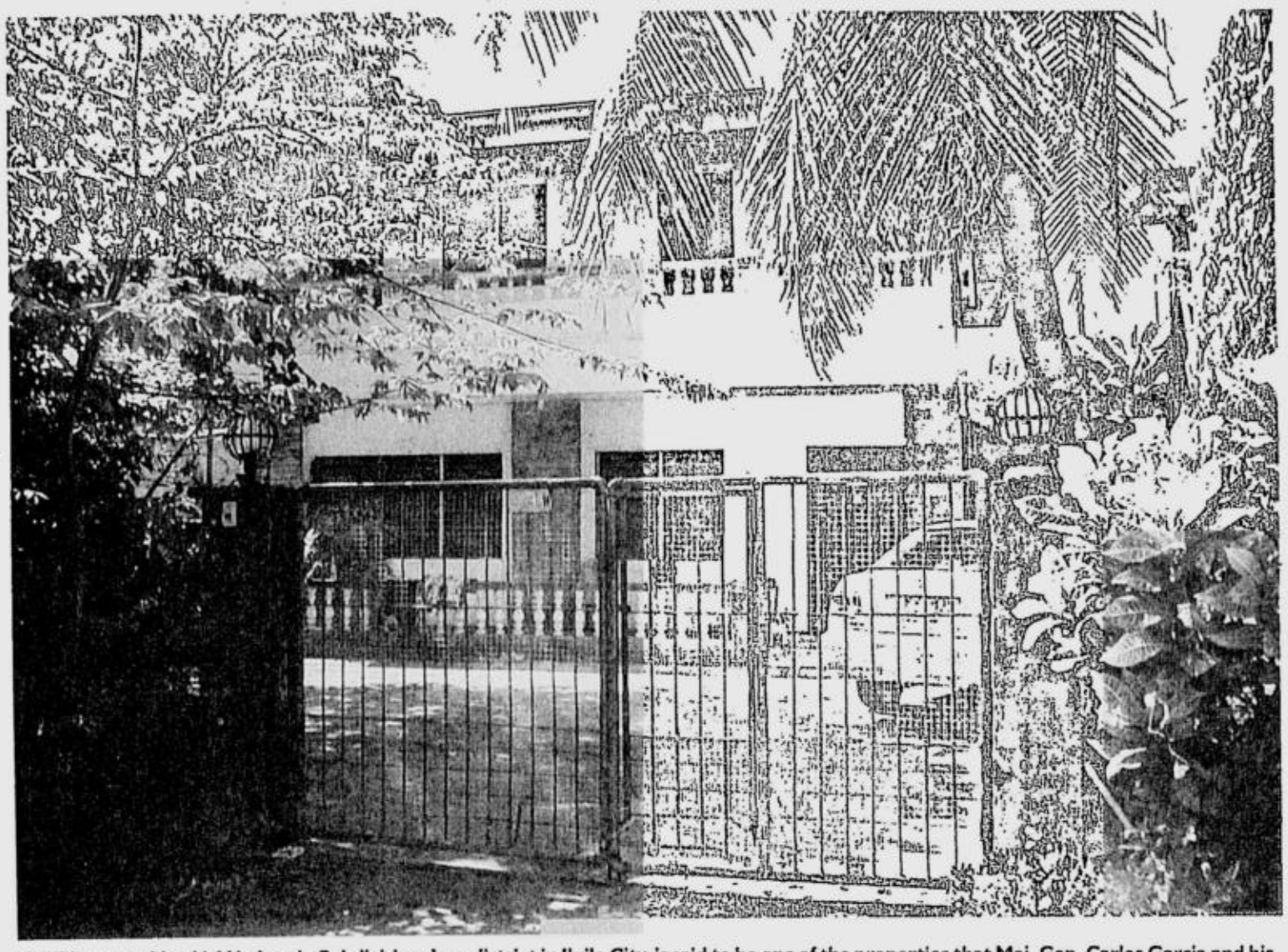
The names of Clarita and her siblings were also etched on the front fence.

The residents also showed a sign which said that Clarita's parents had donated the grandstand in the village's basketball court. A lot on which the Baptist chapel stands was also donated by the family.

The resort-cum-nature park, touted to be the first of its kind in Western Visayas, has assets totaling P15.3 million but it registered a net loss of P1,294,635.87 last year, according to data from the Western Visayas office of the Securities and Exchange Commission. The IJT Mango Orchard Inc. is located in the resort.

Garcia's family also owns IJT International Caregiver Center Inc. located in Barangay Tabuc Suba in Jaro district in Iloilo City. Its total assets reached P1,032,496.95, but like the resort, it had a net loss of P447,056.83 last year.

Garcia and his wife had said the properties were among the sources of their income.



THIS house at No. 46-H in Locsin Subdivision, Jaro district in Iloilo City, is said to be one of the properties that Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia and his family own in Iloilo and Guimaras. One of Garcia's sons, Juan Paolo, stays at the house. NESTOR P BURGOS JR.

Abaya: AFP comptroller should be a civilian

From page A1

soldier's pay includes subsistence and quarters allowance, combat and hazard pay, and clothing allowance.

"Let's get soldiers who will fight our (wars). That's what this army needs," he said.

Supply procurement has so far eluded controversy, especially in relation to the military's modernization program.

Maj. Gen. Cristolito Balaoing, PMA superintendent and the officer who designed the AFP modernization program, said neither Garcia nor any military official could access the modernization supply program because it's accounting system was distinct from the AFP's internal accounting.

"The country already receives supplies from the United States and other allied nations based on a US-financed supply acquisition plan, but we annually report a line-by-line accounting of these purchases to Congress," Balaoing said.

By removing the modernization program from the AFP's internal accounting, Balaoing said he ensured that the program would be completely transparent.

Fixed term for chief of staff

Members of Congress have come up with proposals to curb corruption in the military.

Senate President Franklin Drilon said one could start by making sure that the AFP chief of staff would be staying around long enough to undertake much-needed reforms.

Drilon said he would push for a fixed term of office, preferably a minimum of two years, for the AFP chief of staff.

Drilon said the incoming chief of staff, Gen. Efren Abu, who is set to replace Abaya on Friday, was a highly respected officer in the AFP, but was due to retire in June next year.

"And with all of these things coming out, anomalies in the military, there must be reforms which can only be instilled when the AFP chief has a longer term of office," Drilon said in a phone interview.

That was why he said he would push for the immediate passage of a bill that aims to provide a fixed term of office for the AFP chief.

A bill filed by Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, chair of the Senate national defense committee, prescribes a fixed term of office of three years. The bill allows for the extension of the term of the chief of staff "in cases of war or national emergencies as declared by Congress."

Joint Chiefs of Staff

In the House of Representatives, Isabela Rep. Rodolfo Albano III is pushing for the creation of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) after the stint of Abu as AFP chief of staff to achieve "genuine civilian supremacy" over the military.

Albano said the JCS, to be composed of the AFP major service commands, should be headed by either the secretary of national defense or the national security adviser.

He said he would file a bill to speed up its creation.

"In times of peace, the JCS should be chaired by a civilian but in times of external war or invasion, the JCS should be chaired by a senior military official to be appointed by the President," said Albano.

The corruption scandal in the AFP has raised fears of another coup or people power.

Pep talk

To calm the nation, President Macapagal-Arroyo should address a joint session of Congress, according to Palawan Rep. Abraham Mitra III.

Mitra said that a congressional address would arrest the "drift and helplessness" people feel as they are being battered daily by the torrent of negative news.

"The republic's morale is low. The people are looking for answers. They are asking: 'What is to be done?'" Mitra said.

"What the country needs now is a pep talk from its leader, the assurance that crises are being defused, problems are being solved, and to needy families, that help is on the way," he said. *With reports from Christine O. Avendaño and Cynthia D. Balana*

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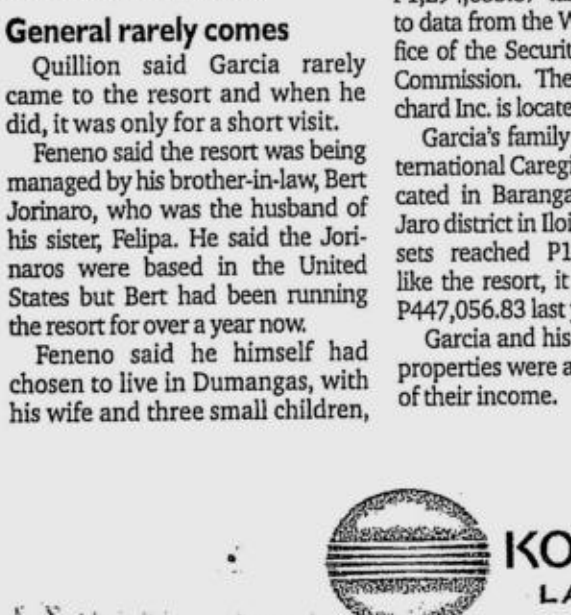

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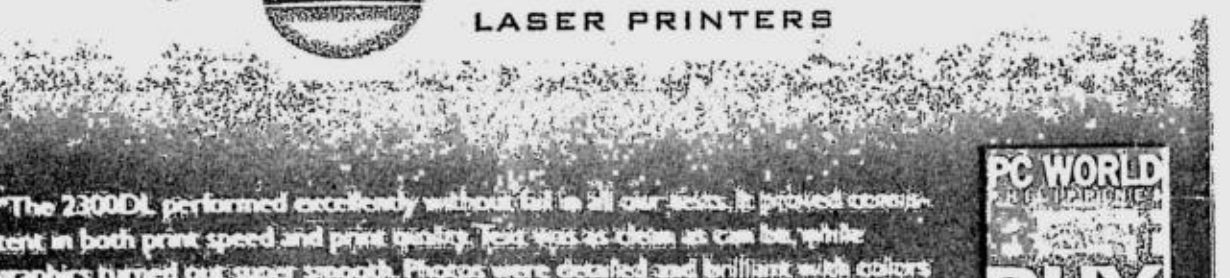

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'This is too much' ...

From page A1

kept out of the media glare.

"The AFP is a professional institution—when someone faults, he's punished," he said. "Inputs (at the hearings) are too much already and it's time that this thing went straight to investigation so the culprit will be punished."

A matter of perspective

Unless the problem is seen in the "proper perspective," Santiago warned that those out to destroy the AFP might succeed.

"If that happens, who'll replace the AFP?"

He did not identify who these "enemies" were but hinted that they could be from the political opposition or even disgruntled retired and active members of the AFP.

Santiago said that whoever floated the allegation that chiefs of staff received huge financial "send-offs" upon retirement was probably being used by "people out to blow up the AFP as an institution."

Clean conscience

"I'm not afraid to say all these things because I have nothing to hide, my conscience is clear," he said.

At the House hearing last week, Santiago told lawmakers he had less than P3 million in his account with the Armed Forces and Police Savings and Loan Association Inc. (AFPSLAI).

In a statement released by the military yesterday, two other former chiefs of staff denied there was a "pabaon" system.

Diomedio Villanueva described the allegation as "unfair to us and the whole AFP."

Never heard

"The so-called contributions of funds are not only improper; they are illegal," he said. "We do not condone these practices."

Benjamin Defensor said there was no such thing as a general's fund, from which retiring top guns allegedly got a hefty portion for their "send-off" money.

"That's the first time I heard of it," he said.

In a text message to the INQUIRER, Communications Director Chief Silvestre Afable said: "Any retirement perks outside the law are immoral."

Military sources told the INQUIRER the huge "pabaon" benefit came from military contingency funds under the chief of staff's control, from so-called "conversions" from regular funds, and kickbacks from military contractors and suppliers.

Reforms take time

"The administration is determined to plug all procedural loopholes that allow 'conversion,' kickbacks or the illegitimate exercise of discretion in defense spending," Afable said. "It will take some time for the new procedures and other reforms to be effectively enforced. The government is working on that."

He said this had been an "on-going effort" under the Arroyo administration—which has had five AFP chiefs in the last three years—"to stop the bleeding from graft and bring more resources to the front-line where these funds are most needed."

"The President is determined on this issue," Afable said.

When asked whether Malacañang would dig deeper into the so-called "golden parachute" allegations, Afable said it would depend on the evidence that it would get.

Afable, however, said that AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Narciso Abaya was unlikely to get any "pabaon" on his retirement on Friday.

"On his own, I believe he will not be engaged in this kind of activity," Afable said.

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2 cagers question DOJ order

By Ruth L. Navarra

TWO OF the nine "Fil-Sham" players of the Philippine Basketball Association have filed a petition to stop the government from deporting them.

Red Bull players Davonn Harp and Mick Pennisi have requested Judge Amelia Manalastas of the Pasig City Regional Trial Court for a 72-hour temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction.

The move is set to stop the orders of Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez and Immigration Chief Alipio Fernandez to deport them. The two allegedly presented fake documents of their citizenship.

Request met

Last Oct. 11, Harp and Pennisi received a request from the DOJ that they submit within three days documents proving their citizenship. They complied and submitted their position papers on Oct. 14. They were surprised to learn three days later that Gonzales had already ordered for their deportation.

The two claimed that the DOJ conducted their investigation in haste.

They also questioned the summary deportation proceedings, saying that doubts on the authenticity of their documents had yet to be fully established.

Harp's counsel, lawyer Ed Robles said the issue of citizenship should be settled by a competent body. He added that his client would respect the decision of the court no matter the outcome.

The case is set to be heard today at the chambers of Manalastas at 9 a.m.

Echiverri prohibits appliances at Caloocan City Hall

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

SORRY, but refrigerators, television sets and electric stoves are no longer allowed at the Caloocan City Hall.

To cut down on electricity bills, Mayor Enrico Echiverri has banned the use of these and other unnecessary appliances in offices at City Hall, a report from the city information office said.

Also banned are rice cookers, toasters, coffee makers and electric ovens which some employees have been using.

Even water heaters and aquariums using electric water pumps are not spared.

Earlier, Echiverri ordered City Hall employees to switch off computers, air conditioners and light bulbs when these were not being used.

P5-M electricity bill

The city government spends about P5 million a month for electricity alone. This includes consumption of the city's two city halls and other satellite offices, as well as the bills for streetlights, secretary to the mayor Russel Ramirez said.

In August, the electricity bill for the City Hall Main Office (in south Caloocan City) amounted to P938,584.

Meanwhile, the bill for the smaller City Hall North office was P100,000.

During a meeting with the city's department heads, Echiverri said he wanted electricity consumption at City Hall reduced by 50 percent as part of the austerity measures his administration was implementing.

In an earlier interview, Echiverri claimed that his administration inherited about P3 billion in debt from previous administrations.

But he said he was capable of paying this obligation.

Kidnap suspects posed as cops

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

POLICE have arrested who they believe to be six members of a big kidnapping syndicate operating in Metro Manila.

The group's modus: pose as lawmen by wearing police uniforms.

Police said the suspects were part of the Waray-Waray kidnap-for-ransom group and were behind the abduction of a 34-year-old Chinese-Filipino businessman last Oct. 6.

The alleged leader of the group admitted the crime, but denied they were part of the Waray-Waray kidnapping syndicate.

Two suspects remain at large.

The suspects allegedly released the victim on Oct. 8 after his family paid P430,000 in ransom. The suspects initially demanded P5 million.

Police help sought

Two weeks later, the family sought help from the Cubao police.

Operatives from the Central Police District, National Anti-Kidnapping Task Force and the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines then launched an operation and managed to track down the suspects.

On Thursday, authorities arrested Jimmy Cenday, Ric Lumacang, Rex Portado and Antonio Escoton Jr. in Dasmariñas, Cavite.

Alleged group leader Mario Patlonag was arrested during a follow-up operation, also in Cavite, while Francisco Mullon was arrested in Sta. Mesa, Manila.

Authorities recovered police uniforms, two .45-cal. pistols, handheld radios and pairs of combat boots inside the suspects' alleged safehouse in a subdivision in Dasmariñas, Cavite.

The suspects were presented to Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes yesterday noon.

Patlonag, 34, said this was just his first try at kidnapping. He denied he was the leader of the group and pointed at a certain "Alex" as the mastermind.

He said Alex was the one who recruited them and supplied them with guns and police uniforms. Alex was also the one who negotiated with the victim's family, Patlonag added.

But Alex and a certain Benny managed to elude arrest.

Patlonag said the two took away the bulk of the ransom while he and the other suspects were given only P20,000 each.

National Capital Region Police Office Director Avelino Razon said the group was just part of a bigger kidnap-for-ransom syndicate.

He said operations for the arrest of Alex and Benny were ongoing.

KIDNAPPING suspects are presented to the media by the police during a press conference yesterday at the Central Police District headquarters in Quezon City. The fall of the suspects came after the family of their alleged victim sought the help of authorities. ROGER MARGALLO

A council seat for Muslims

By Tarra V. Quismundo

THEY shall be heard.

The Manila government is promising to give Manila's Muslim community a representative in the City Council.

Seeking to give the city's thriving Islamic community a voice in government, City Hall has proposed that Manila's Muslims be represented in the City Council, the local legislative body.

"Next year, a Muslim will become a member of the city council," said Mayor Lito Atienza, during a meeting with leaders of the Islamic community last week.

Council composition

The City Council currently has 36 elected members and two sectoral representatives, including Manila's chair of the Liga ng mga Barangay, an elected body of barangay leaders established to coordinate barangay affairs, and the chair of the Sangguniang Kabataan, the local youth council.

"Muslims are a minority, that's why they should have representation. It would be hard for them to elect their own," said Atienza of the Islamic Center in San Miguel, Manila.

The Muslim community has been perceived to be a subdistrict of violence, where "one who dared enter would never come out alive."

It is in the third district, which also hosts a large Chinese-Filipino community.

Ordinance needed

Making space for one more councilor would take the passage of an ordinance.

Manila Rep. Miles Roces (3rd district) had proposed an ordinance providing for Muslim representation when he was still a councilor. But it was never approved due to opposition.

Atienza said he was confident that the proposal would pass the current council since his party was the majority in the local legislature.

City Hall, Muslim leaders and the police recently signed a declaration of unity aimed at erasing the tattered image of the Islamic Center and developing the area into a cultural and religious destination.

BSP names 10 outstanding scouts

By Margaux C. Ortiz

THEY joined the organization on the encouragement of their families and friends, not expecting their services would become part of their life mission.

Aries Rey Sales and Brainard Lombard Ho, both 16, were among those recently named as the Philippines' 10 Outstanding Boy Scouts for their invaluable services to the community.

"We are very honored to have done our duty to serve the people in any way we can," Ho, a fourth year high school student at the Chiang Kai Shek College, said in an interview.

Serving the community

Ho said he had been participating in gift-giving programs and medical missions as a form of community service.

"The community suffers from many problems and I realized there were more people who needed help than those who did not," Ho said.

The high school senior, who excels in Mathematics in school, devotes time to teaching basic counting to orphans and abandoned children at the Missionaries of Charity Foundation.

"It is only one way of giving back the talent that has been given to me," added Ho, who recently passed the Licensure Examination for Mental Arithmetic Skills and Abacus Calculation Skills given by the Ministry of Education of Taiwan.

He said he felt disheartened at first when he became a Boy Scout when he was in Grade Five.

"I did not feel quite happy because there were too many activities," Ho said. "I even wanted to back out because of the strict rules and punishments."

Sales, a senior student at the Daniel R. Aguinaldo National High School in Davao City, had similar experiences.

"I come from a family of scouts; my father was an Eagle Scout, which is the highest position to be attained by a Boy Scout," Sales, also an Eagle Scout, said.

Sales said he became a Boy Scout in the second grade "because of the family history."

Conflict with studies

When he reached his sophomore year in high school, he said he already wanted to give up because of stringent school requirements which competed with his scouting duties.

"My father convinced me that it was possible to do and excel in both as long as I could plan and manage my time properly," Sales said.

Sales, who was a team leader of the emergency service corps for the evacuation of victims when a great flood plagued his city in 2003, added that scouting taught him many valuable lessons in leadership and service.

Influencing others

"Leadership is not about titles and flowcharts but about influence," Sales stressed. "It's one life influencing another for the good of everyone."

Ho agreed, saying that he would never regret having become a Boy Scout.

The two boys said they would use the recognition given them to share their experiences with everyone.

Also named this year's top scouts were Allan dela Peña, Joel Paolo Esguerra, Neil Everett Elpusan, Sam Christian Lee, Airel Derick Martin, Alan Kristofer Motus, Josef Aaron Lim and Markdale Olarte.

The winners were chosen from 27 finalists from the 10 scouting regions in the country and were selected from among hundreds of candidates from 106 local councils nationwide.

Son of 3D appliance tycoon scores vs kin

By Tarra V. Quismundo

IT WAS a round won by the son.

The Manila Regional Trial Court has granted the preliminary injunction sought by Gilbert Guy, who has been battling other members of his family over control of their company, which manufactures and sells the 3D brand of home appliances.

Judge Artemio Tipon of RTC Branch 46 approved Guy's petition that sought to prevent his mother, three sisters and a certain Emilia Tabugadir from exercising their voting rights in their company, Northern Islands Co. Inc. (NICI).

Founded by father

NICI, a multimillion company established by family patriarch Francisco Guy Co Chia, is a wholesaler of electrical appliances and wiring devices.

Guy reportedly controls 80 percent of NICI's stocks, which his father reportedly sold him in the 1980s.

In 1986, Guy established the Lincoln Continental Development Company Inc. (LCDCI) as a holding firm where he placed 50 percent of the NICI stocks under his name.

He kept 30 percent of the total shares under his name.

However, Guy's sisters Grace, Geraldine and Gladys, and their mother, Simny, questioned his control of the company.

Brother gets control

The preliminary injunction prevents them from getting in the way of Guy and his father in managing the company.

The court decision affirmed Guy's position as the company's executive vice president and his father as president, and ordered his female siblings to respect their management.

In a statement, Guy said that he and his father deserved ownership of the company as they were the ones who "nurtured it from scratch" and developed it to its present success. All the while, said Guy, his sisters "enjoyed life in Canada."

Earlier, his mother and sisters publicly accused Guy of illegally detaining their 78-year-old father.

To file or not to file a case, that is the question

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

PRIVATE lender Francisco Nieves wants to file a case of estafa against a borrower, hoping to get back his money amounting to at least P1,120.

But filing the case before the court would cost him P1,140, or P20 more than what he would claim.

Talk about rising costs of basic commodities and services.

Frustrated, the 61-year-old lender in Malabon City has written Chief Justice Hilario Davide, calling his attention to the "exorbitant (and) oppressive fees."

The Supreme Court increased legal fees two months ago—the first in a series of rate increases for legal fees scheduled in the next two years.

The new rates, which increased some legal fees by 4,000 percent, faced strong protests from several groups, including lawyers.

Two weeks ago, the Supreme Court deferred the implementation of the increased rates for the solemnization of marriage, filing of motions and of compulsory counterclaims.

But the complaints keep on coming.

A few weeks ago, Nieves went to the Malabon City Metropolitan Trial Court to file a case of estafa against a borrower who had issued him two bouncing checks.

The first check was worth P1,120. Filing the case would require Nieves P1,140, the court said in its collection letter.

Shocking, especially when compared to the previous rate of P165 for the same case.

Filing another case for the second check (also worth P1,120) would set Nieves back at least P640.

But Nieves is not the only one left wondering, clerk of court Emelita Trinidad said.

Since the increased rates were implemented, many people started nagging court employees, asking for explanations.

"It's very difficult (to explain). The rates are beyond our control. We are just following orders," Trinidad said.

The number of cases being filed have also slightly dwindled after the implementation of the higher fees, Malabon City Regional Trial Court clerk of court Esmeralda Dizon said.

Some of those filing cases would decide to go home after learning of the higher filing fees.

"When we were young, we were taught to go to the courts if we were oppressed. But if the filing fees are oppressive, where do we go now?" Nieves told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

In his letter, he also asked Davide to replace the increased rates with "one that is affordable, humane and considerate."

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MONDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2004.

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Editor Ester G. Dipasupil ■ Assistant Editor Cenon B. Bibe

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Probe corruption in jails, says senator

JUST like getting the death sentence.

That was how Sen. Manny Villar described the plight of many inmates in the country's jails as he called on an inquiry on the condition of detention facilities and of alleged anomalies and corruption in jails.

Villar issued a statement as another inmate of the Manila City Jail died after suffering from diarrhea.

"We should not treat our inmates as if we are subjecting them to an even stiffer sentence than what they got from their crimes," said the chair of the Senate committee on public order and illegal drugs.

He added, "If we were in their shoes, we might even consider it as a death sentence if we saw the living conditions in the jails or prison cells."

According to him, conditions inside the country's prisons are harsh, even to the point of being inhumane.

"The prisons here are overcrowded, have limited sanitary facilities and provide prisoners with an inadequate diet," Villar observed.

But worse, he deplored reports that "the already measly food allowance allotted for our prisoners is even pocketed by corrupt prison officials."

He was referring to a reported incident at the Manila City Jail where the meager food allowance of P33 per day of each of the 5,354 inmates there was further reduced to P15 per day per inmate.

The difference in the amount, worth almost P3 million a month, is allegedly being pocketed by certain officials of the jail and the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP).

Corruption allegedly exists despite the already acute shortage of funds for the inmates' food.

According to a study on jail conditions in the country commissioned by the Supreme Court, the number of prisoners has been increasing by 12 percent every year, but the budget allocated to the BJMP had not gone up in the past two years.

Villar said that even the United Nations Convention on Civil and Political Rights, to which the Philippines is a signatory, provides that prisoners "shall be treated with humanity and with respect for the inherent dignity of the human person."

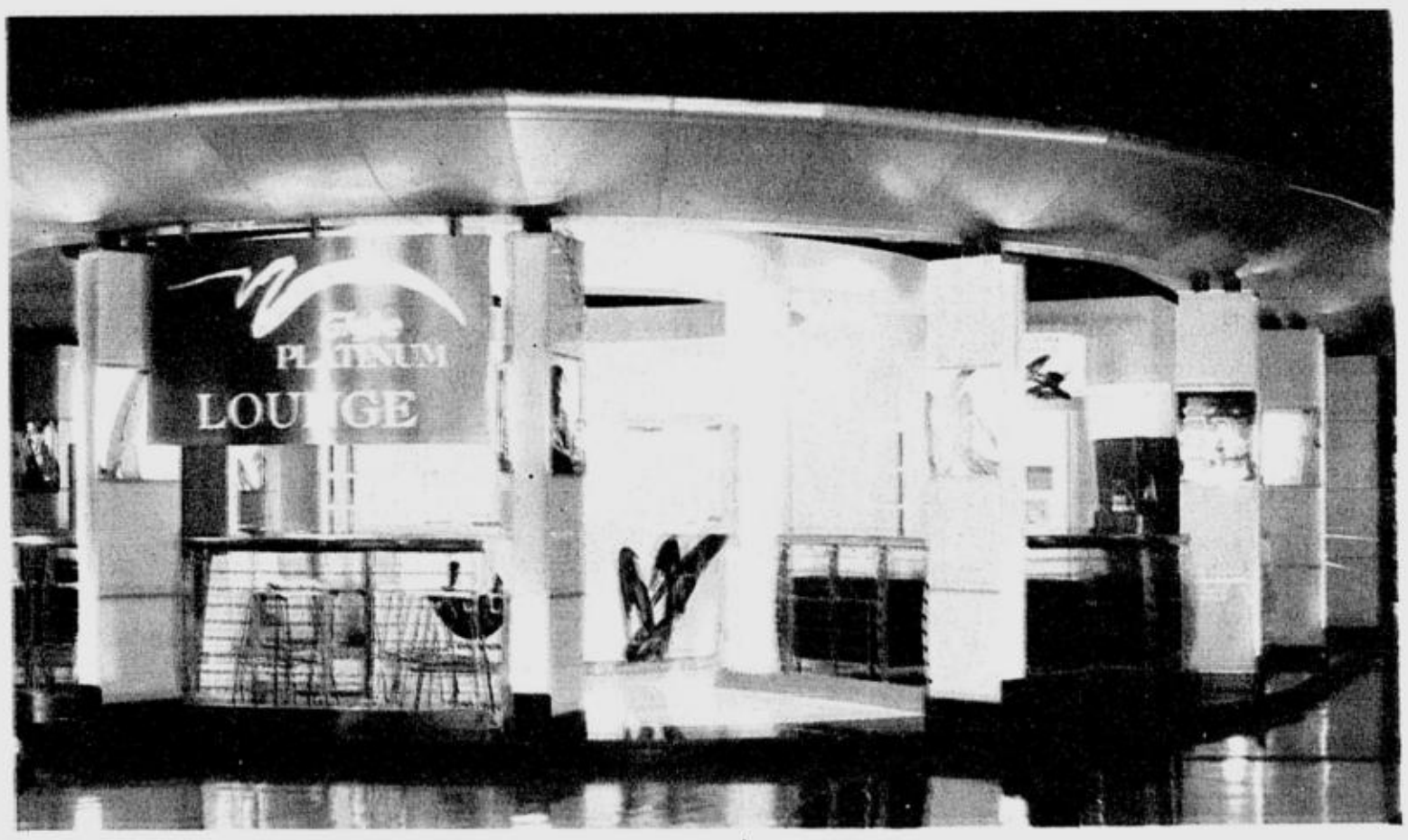
The senator also pointed out that the UN convention was seeking penitentiary systems to treat the prisoners "with the essential aim of which shall be their reformation and social rehabilitation."

Overcrowding and the poor hygienic conditions in jails have reportedly led to the spread of contagious diseases among prisoners.

It was reported that at least 26 inmates at the Quezon City Jail have tuberculosis, two of whom died already.

The 300-square meter jail was built to hold 400 prisoners only, yet it houses more than 3,000 prisoners.

TECHIE NIRVANA.



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MONDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2004

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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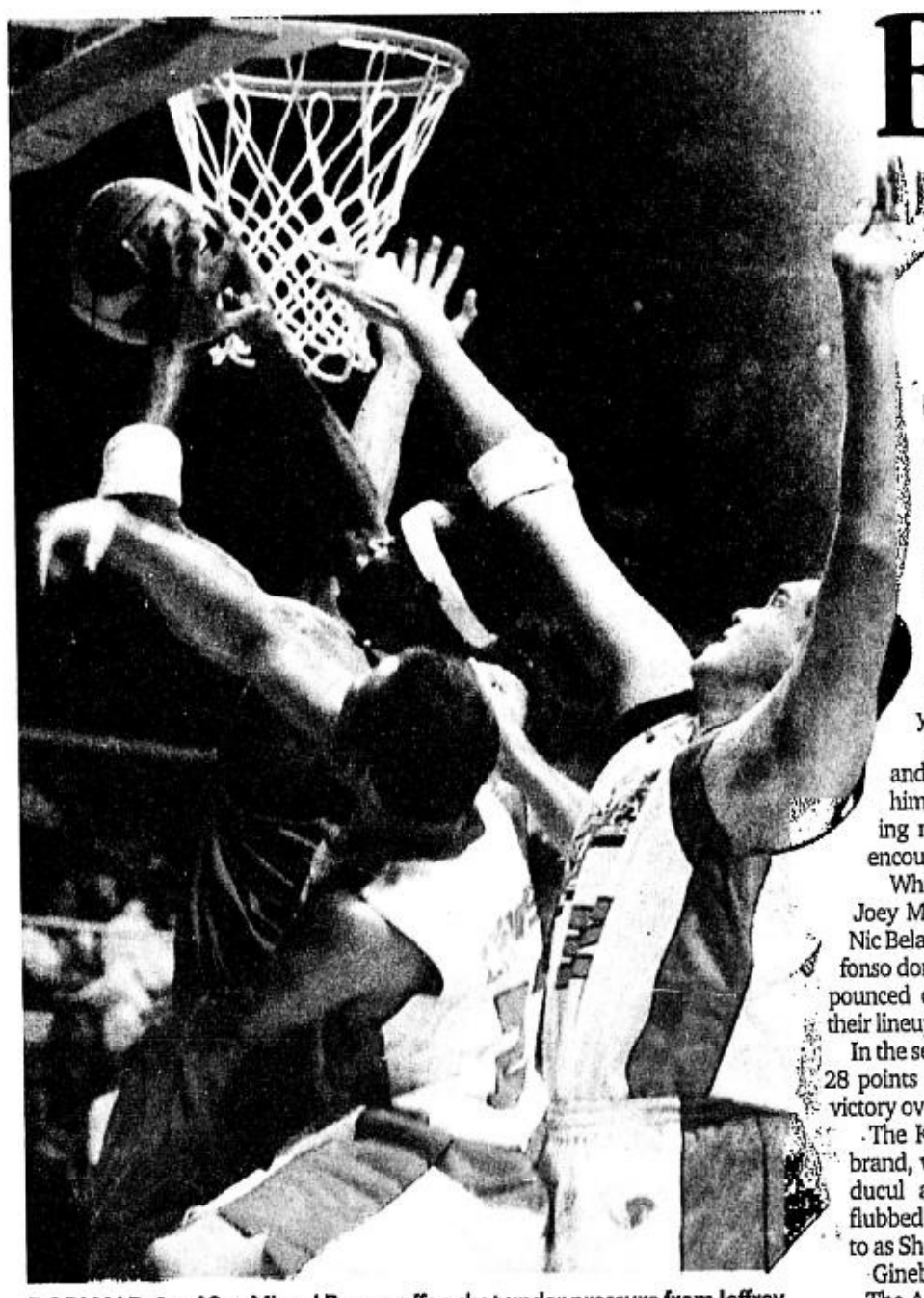

DORIAN Peña of San Miguel Beer muffs a shot under pressure from Jeffrey Cariaso and EJ Feihl (right) of Alaska during last night's game. JESS YUSON

Beermen halt slide, thrash Alaska Aces

By June Navarro

LOSING a third straight game is certainly not San Miguel Beer's routine.

Dondon Hontiveros atoned for a recent disappointing endgame performance as the Beermen downed the Alaska Aces, 75-67, last night to snap out of a two-game slide in the Gran Matador PBA Philippine Cup at the Araneta Coliseum.

The Beermen posted their third victory in six games and avoided a second three-game losing streak in the last seven years.

Hontiveros nailed three triples and had 17 points as he redeemed himself from firing blanks in the closing minutes of the Beermen's losing encounter against the Turbochargers.

While Hontiveros, Olsen Racela and Joey Mente blew hot from the outside, Nic Belasco, Dorian Peña and Danny Ildefonso dominated the paint as the Beermen pounced on the Aces, who tinkered with their lineup a day before gametime.

In the second game, Tony dela Cruz fired 28 points and Shell held on for an 86-81 victory over Ginebra.

The Kings were led by Jayjay Helterbrand, who had 24 points. Rommel Adducul added 20 and 18 boards, but flubbed a three-on-one late in the game to as Shell won its fourth straight game.

Ginebra dropped to 2-3.

The Aces absorbed a fourth loss in five games but satisfaction was written on Alaska coach Tim Cone's face with the acquisition of Jeffrey Cariaso and Reynel Hugnatan from Coca-Cola for Ali Peek and John Arigo.

"It's fun to have a guy like Reynel. He's a perfect power forward who can shoot, rebound, hustle and defend while Jeff will provide us the leadership qualities that we need," said Cone.

"I was very pleased with the effort and the way we played out there."

With Don Allado out for another week due to a sprained ankle, Hugnatan took care of the shaded lane and paced the Aces with 21 points.

The scores:

First Game

SAN MIGUEL 75—Hontiveros 17, Belasco 14, Mente 11, Peña 11, Racela 9, Ildefonso 6, Singson 4, Gahol 3.

ALASKA 67—Hugnatan 21, Cariaso 16, Cortez 12, Cablay

BEERMEN/ A32

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PBA chair unhappy with legal action

By Jasmine W. Payo

KEEP your word.

Philippine Basketball Association chair Buddy Encarnado reminded the league's board members of this yesterday as he pointed at violations of a board resolution calling for compliance with any Department of Justice decision on the Filipino-born players.

"The teams already agreed to encourage their players not to resort to court cases," he said. "It will only aggravate the situation. What's happening now is going counter to the agreement of the members."

Encarnado's reaction came in the wake of legal action taken by three of the six foreign-born players recommended for deportation by the Justice department last week for faking their citizenship documents.

Red Bull's Davonn Harp and Mick Pennisi filed their petition for prohibition with prayer for injunction and temporary restraining order with the Pasig Regional Trial Court. The hearing for the petition is set today.

Asi Taulava of Talk 'N Text, the league's reigning Most Valuable Player, also filed a P1.2 million damage suit against Encarnado, commissioner Noli Eala and the league's Board of Governors for suspending him despite a DOJ order holding his deportation in abeyance due to an in-

PBA CHAIR/ A27

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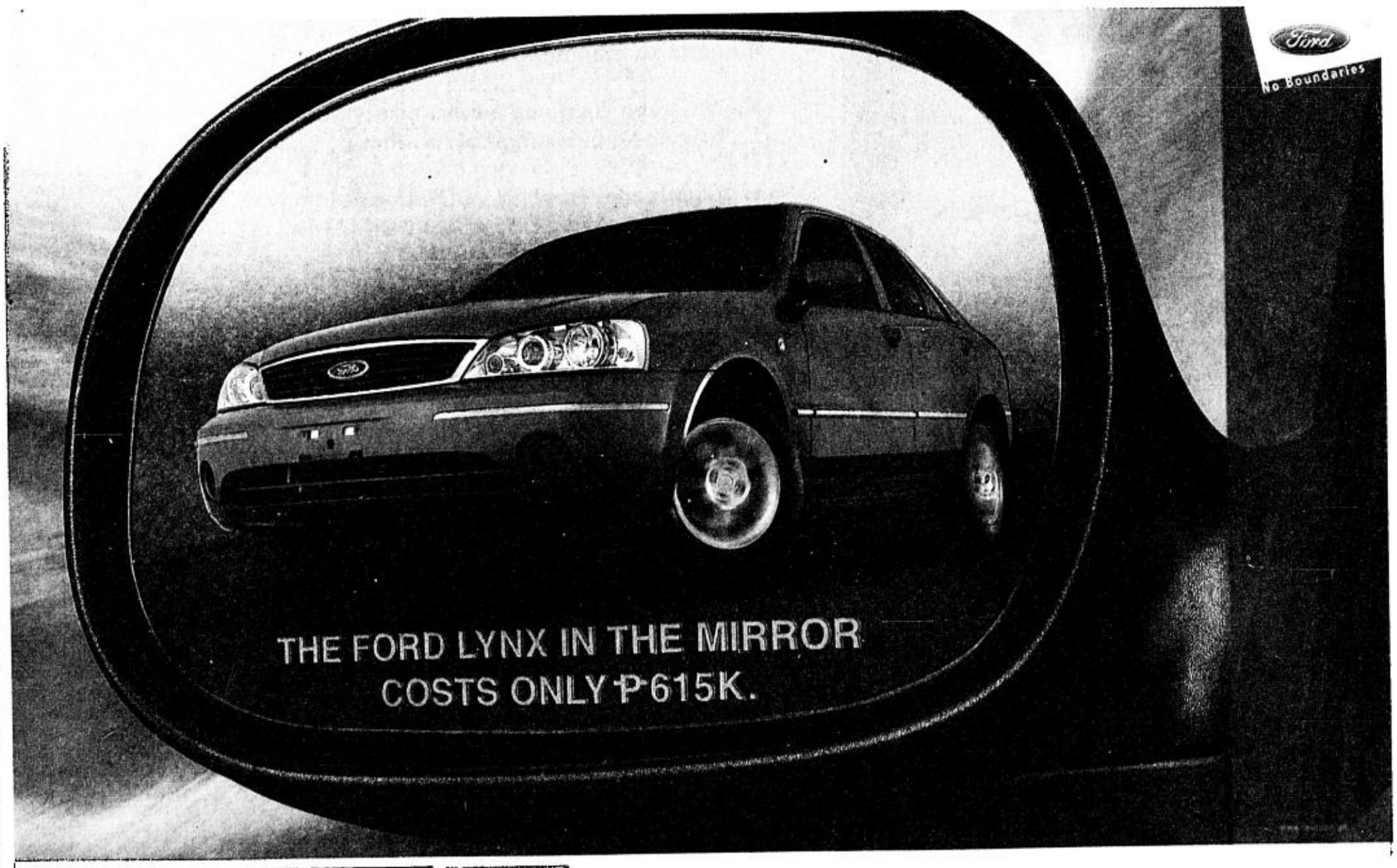

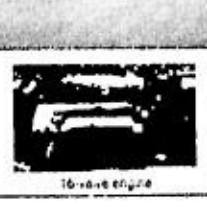
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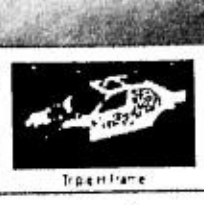
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Agojo fires 68, lifts RP to 18th

JAYVIE Agojo stole the limelight for the Philippines by shooting the final round's best score of four-under-par 68 at the close of the Women's World Amateur Team championship won by Sweden in Rio Grande, Puerto Rico yesterday.

And with Lora Roberto matching par 72, the hot-finishing Filipinas wound up 18th, from 26th place overnight, in a field of 48 as they again matched the day's low team score of 140 at the long River course of the Rio Mar complex.

Sweden also closed out with 140 as Karin Sjidon and Louis Stahle signed for 70s to win the Espirito Santo trophy by three strokes over Canada and the United States.

The Swedes, who played the Ocean course like the other top contenders, totaled nine-under 567, the tournament's second lowest score ever under the three-to-play, two-to-count format.

Canada faltered with a 145 after leading the first three rounds, while the Americans, sparked by a 69 from Paula Creamer, also scored 140 as both teams tied for second at 570.

The strong finish by Agojo was the worthiest by the former jungolf wonder in an international tournament. It also boosted the country to one of its best finishes in the event.

Agojo, who had her swing adjusted a month prior to the tournament, improved on her 71 in the third round by gunning down five birdies against a lone bogey in her 33-35 round.

The 18-year-old Villamor player, who had earlier rounds of 73-78, finished in a tie for 12th at two-over 290 with Spain's Elisa Seramia in the unofficial individual race.

Roberto also proved her worth by shooting 73 in the third round after an 86 and 81 in the first two rounds. Anya Tanpinco, the third RP bet, submitted a nervous 87 at the start, but she settled somewhat with a 78, 76

AGOJO/ A31

AGOJO: Tied for 12th

SUICO finally gets to Aroby in the 8th and it was all over.

Suico stops Indon, keeps OPBF title

By Salven L. Lagumbay
Contributor

LAPU-LAPU CITY—Reigning Oriental and Pacific Boxing Federation (OPBF) super featherweight champion and World Boxing Council (WBC) No. 2 Randy "Komong Bato" Suico solidified his reputation as the country's hardest puncher as he stopped Indon challenger Ibrahim Aroby with a right straight to the jaw in the eighth round of their 12-round bout here Saturday.

Suico, who dominated the fight from the start, sent Aroby down like a log with his powerful right and Japanese referee Kazumasa Kuwata didn't bother to count, declaring the Filipino winner at the 1:04 mark of the eighth.

It was the 19th win inside the distance for Suico (now with a 22-1 win-loss record), who was comfortably leading in all three judges' scorecards before the fight's abrupt end.

Scoring referee Kazumasa Kuwata had Suico ahead at 70-68, Teddy Alivio of the Philippines favored Suico at 68-64 and Indonesia's Machmud Junus concurred with a 67-65 score.

Suico started strong, knocking down Aroby with a left-right combination to the face near the end of the second round.

In the third, Aroby got tagged again and went down on his knees, but the referee ignored the knockdown. Aroby regained his composure in the fourth, using powder-puff punches to frustrate the local hero. A right by the Indon near the end of the round found its mark on Suico's chin.

Through rounds fifth to seventh, Suico stalked Aroby as the Mandaue-raised fighter pressed for the knockout he had promised fans. Then he finally got to Aroby in the eighth and it was all over.

In the undercard, Dexter Delada of Wakee Salud Stable arranged a Dec. 4 showdown with Philippine super featherweight champ Bobby Pacquiao after he knocked out Al Deliguer in the fifth round of a highly entertaining fight.

The upset axe fell on ex-PABA flyweight champ Rolly Lunas as he took a majority decision loss from RP No. 1 super bantam Jake Verano.

Also, Gilbert De la Torre prevailed by split decision over Ricardo Albia; Ayon Naranjo decisioned Roland Econas; JR Sollano stopped Muhammad Nazib in the first round; Gabriel Pumar disposed of Wine Bartiquel in the fourth; and Alex Aroy halted Rex Madrid in the second.

Borrowed joy at Lapu-Lapu Complex

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

CEBU CITY—Just one punch—a sharp, brick-hard right to the chin—and everybody left fulfilled.

The victim disappeared like a pilot who took a parachute jump.

The full-house crowd stood up as one.

Fans did not wait for the thin Japanese referee in gray shirt and black tie to finish the required knockout count.

They had savored and enjoyed what was promised.

They could not have asked for anything better.

The dish was exquisite. It was served flashing hot.

Like happy restaurant guests who had truly enjoyed the desired dish, they dropped their napkins, nodded in gratitude, and courteously headed for the exits.

***

Randy Suico's great right hand connected with the quickness of lightning.

That was not an exaggeration because there were those who did not see it and wondered how the end came.

Well, it came a little late, in the eighth round, not in the fifth as Suico had promised.

But who cares? There could've been no better knockout fare under the circumstances.

The visiting challenger, who had lost only once, was both quick and slippery.

Of course, the happier part of the deal was that Suico this time visibly got a legit boxer for a challenger.

There had been times in the past when victims of the reigning Oriental Pacific Boxing Federation super featherweight champion often paled out as patsies.

***

This was the case when Suico made a previous successful defense against a Korean whose shining credentials were trumpeted about in the run-up to the fight.

The handlers of the Korean testified there could have been no better challenger for Suico.

The claims were backed with solid credentials.

Unfortunately, Suico proved too good and caught his foe with a killer blow. The Korean was stopped cold in the second round.

The result was that of disbelief, with several amazed fans wondering if the loser was a chef who had agreed to take a night off from one of the Korean pubs around.

***

Anyway, Suico's golden effort against mandatory challenger Ibrahim Muhammad Aroby, No. 3 challenger, marked the third successful defense of his OPBF crown.

The big attendance and the results brought a wide smile to promoter Rex "Wakee" Salud, an intrepid sportsman who has already produced three world boxing champions.

Last Saturday's card by Rex "Wakee" Salud International at the Lapu-Lapu Sports Complex in Pusok, Lapu-Lapu City, with its big, happy attendance, had more or less assured that Wakee would not lose his shirt again.

Boxing chronicler Dennis Principe of the Manila Bulletin, who also worked the bout for television, said he had never seen Salud look so pleased.

Of course, more than the attendance, Salud was glad that the main fight had more than lived up to great expectations.

***

You see, the importance of bringing good, valid sporting theater to the provinces cannot be over-emphasized.

One good showing from an aspirant world boxing champ, like Suico who's ranked second by the WBC in the 130-lb division and should be fighting for the world crown proper soon, readily lights up dim surroundings.

The hot, flashing win comes as a ready holiday cheer, no matter how momentary, mainly for the poor, who obviously had to again save up to witness live boxing action on Saturday. (Tickets were priced at P500, P300, P100.)

You can bet those who were at the sports complex, carved out of a vast vacant field, went there not only to watch.

Hopeless souls also started to sense some hope again, no matter how slim.

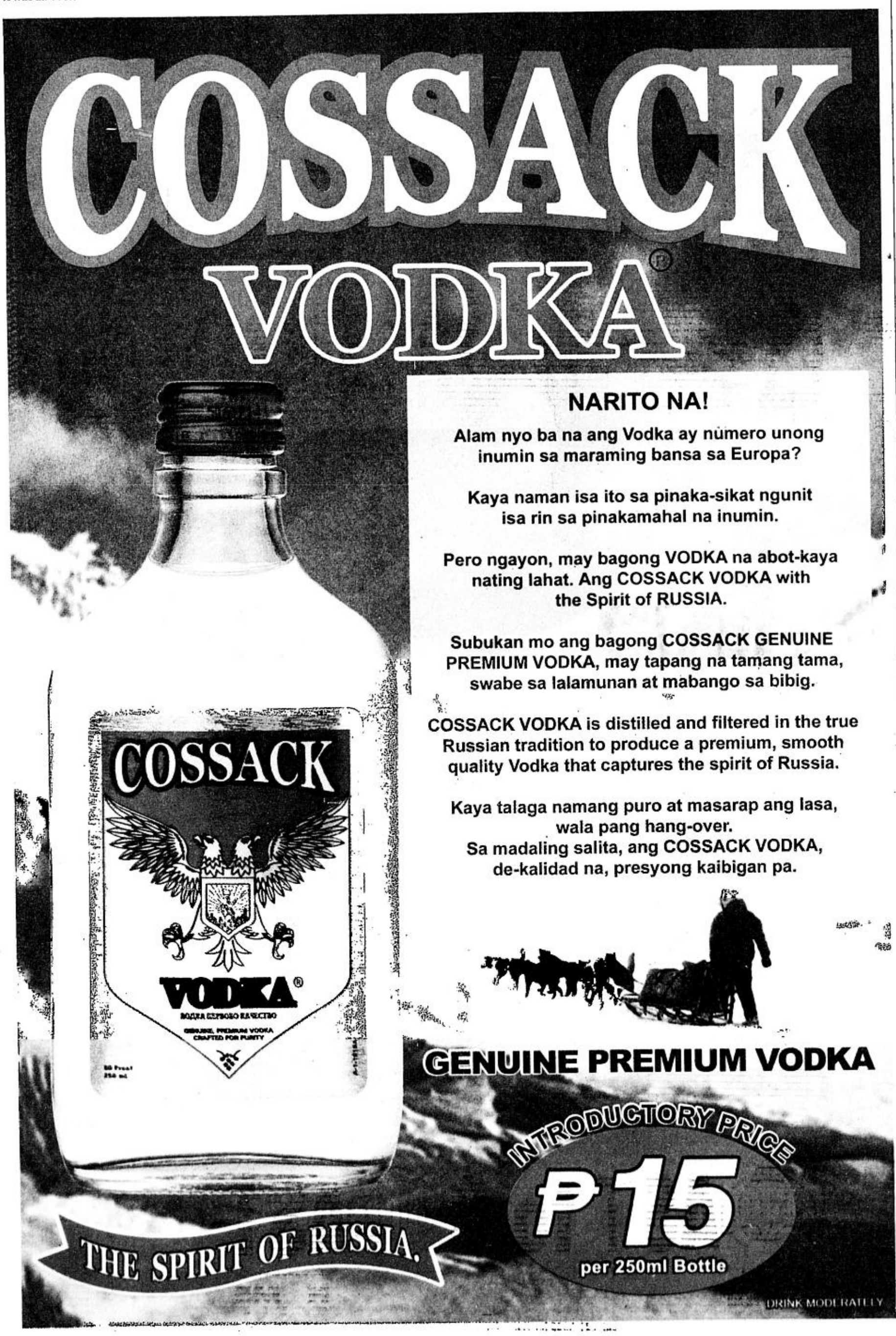
Traffic outside the venue was predictably clogged.

Stalled, protesting engines spewed noxious fumes.

It was dark out on the road.

Empty tables await them at home.

But poor fans, now sharing a champion's fulfillment, walked back armed with a piece of borrowed joy.



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RP crushes Indons sans Antonio

The leaders after eight rounds (129 teams):

MEN: 25.0 pts.—Ukraine; 22.0—Russia; 21.0—Armenia, India; 20.5—Spain A, United States, Poland; 20.0—Switzerland, Germany, Bulgaria, Georgia, France, China, Slovenia; 19.5—Philippines, Israel, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Serbia Montenegro; 19.0—Hungary, Slovakia, Cuba, Denmark, Czech Republic, Estonia, Netherlands

MALLORCA, Spain—The Philippines, playing without Grandmaster Joey Antonio for the second straight day, rejoined the elite rank following a stirring 3.5-0.5 rout of Indonesia Saturday in the eighth round of the World Chess Olympiad.

GM Eugene Torre, GM candidate Mark Paragua and Darwin Laylo hammered their opponents while IM Jayson Gonzales settled for a draw as the Filipinos climbed to a share of 15th place with 19.5 points.

The huge win, however, placed the Philippines in a collision course with ninth-ranked Azerbaijan, a youth-laden team led by super GM Teimour Radjabov (2663) Sunday.

Meanwhile, Ukraine appeared headed to its first title after smashing Bulgaria, 3.5-0.5.

The former Soviet republic now has 25 points, three ahead of defending champion Russia which edged Armenia, 2.5-1.5.

India defeated Spain A, 2.5-1.5, to share third place with Armenia.

The Filipinos, smarting from a 1-3 defeat to Poland in the seventh round, struck hard with the black pieces with Paragua and the rookie Laylo turning on the heat in boards 2 and 4, respectively.

Paragua, the country's top-ranked player at 20, used the Sicilian defense to thwart IM Liu Dede in 38 moves.

The Filipino offered a pawn and forced Liu to give up the queen for two rooks.

TORRE: Sacrifice

ANTONIO: Absent

With two active bishops, Paragua launched a mating attack which Liu could not stop. The win gave the former prodigy 4.5 points in seven games.

Laylo, the reigning national champion, sacrificed two major pieces en route to victory over Fide Master Taufik Halay.

The 24-year-old rookie shattered Halay's kingside pawn structure with a bishop sacrifice and gave up a knight to lure the white king out of the den.

Halay hoisted the white flag when mate became inevitable.

"I played like (Gary) Kasparov," quipped Laylo, who now has 2.5 points in five games.

Torre, playing his sixth straight match, squeezed the team's third point by outlasting IM Susanto Megaranto with white.

The 52-year-old vanguard of the RP team gave up a piece for two connected passed pawns which he used to down the rising Indonesian star, best remembered for defeating Paragua in the Southeast Asian Games last year in Vietnam.

While the victory lifted the team out of the doldrums, tension developed between Antonio and the rest of the members.

Antonio, who begged off from playing against Indonesia, did not attend a team meeting Saturday evening to determine the lineup for Sunday's match with Azerbaijan.

Emmanuel Senador, who shares the room with Antonio, said the regular Board 2 player was fast asleep, but sent word that he would play only with the white pieces.

Playing white gives a player an early advantage in chess.

That did not sit well with Torre who was hoping to take a much-needed rest and let Antonio play black on the top board.

"Joey (Antonio) has no right to put his interest above the team's," said Torre, who had a spat with Antonio two years ago in Bled, Slovenia, over the choice of colors. "Besides, he has already played white thrice in five games. It is only proper that he play black to give other players equal chances to play white, too."

RP CRUSHES/ A32

POC poll body formed Nov. 10

THE PHILIPPINE Olympic Committee executive board will meet on Nov. 10 to form the election body for this year's polls.

This was announced yesterday by POC first vice president Steve C. Hontiveros after conferring with outgoing president Celso L. Dayrit.

"Contrary to reports which appeared in some newspapers yesterday, the deadline for nomination of candidates is one week before the elections set on Nov. 26," Hontiveros said.

Dayrit, who has decided not to seek reelection, will be at the helm of the POC until the end of the year.

Former representative and equestrian federation head Jose "Peping" Cojuangco Jr. will run for the presidency unopposed.

Hontiveros claimed that no non-POC official has been authorized by the body to announce any date for the deadline of nomination for prospective candidates.

PBA chair unhappy with legal action

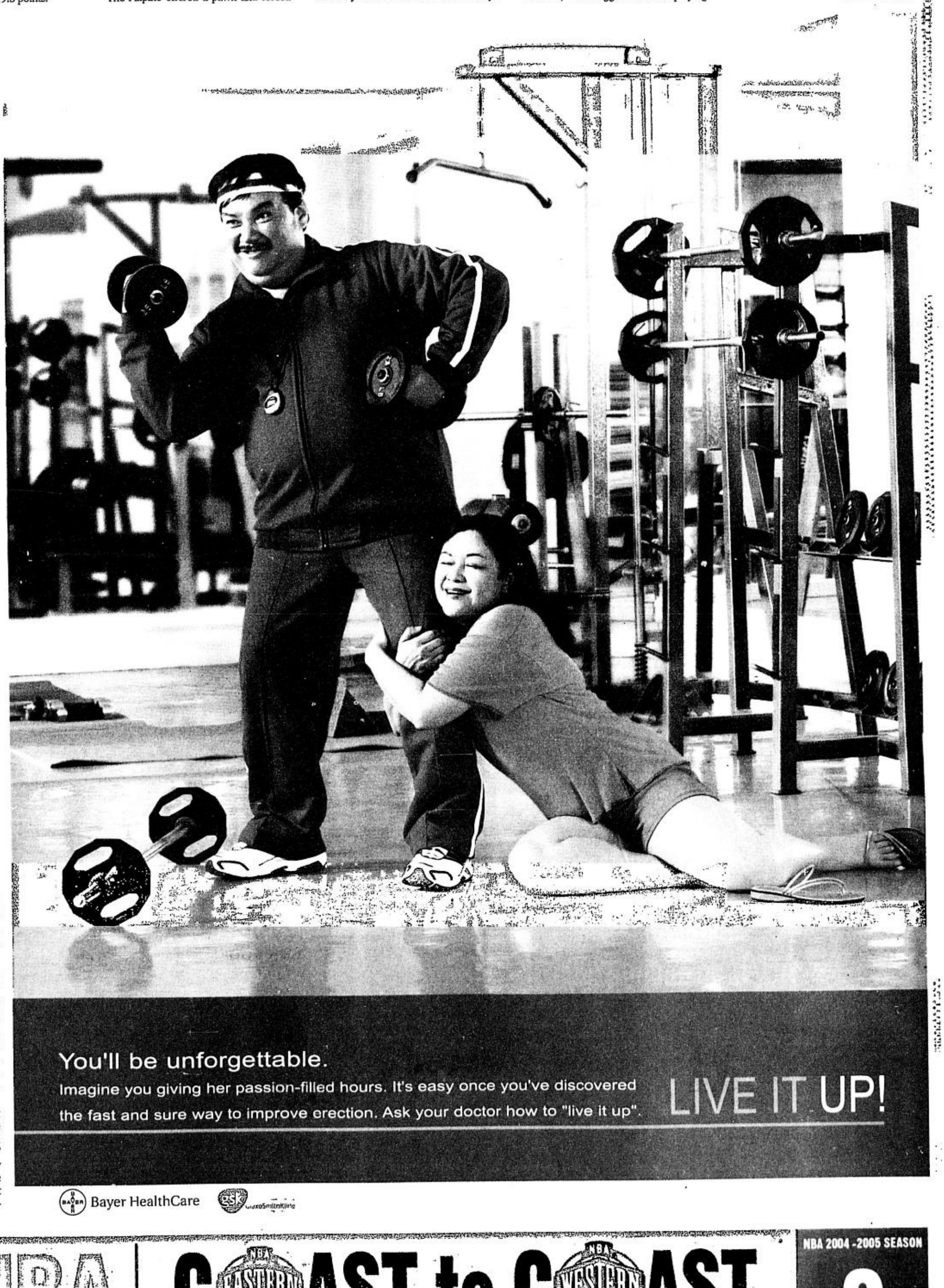
From page 25

junction he had secured last year.

Coca Cola's Rudy Hatfield, Ginebra's Alex Crisano and Red Bull's Jon Ordonio are also expected to meet today's deadline for submission of their petition papers at the Bureau of Immigration.

Except for Taulava, the rest have earlier been given a non-extendable period of five days to submit their answer to charges that they violated immigration laws by submitting fraudulent papers to support their claim to Filipino citizenship.

"I still wish that these players will come to their senses and heed the DOJ's ruling," said Encarnado. "Any case filed against the PBA is unnecessary. It will only further prejudice their situation."



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SEASON BEGINS NOV.3

Bellhorn keys Game 1 Sox win

Two-run hit off foul screen caps highest-scoring opener

BOSTON—Mark Bellhorn hit a drive off the foul screen in right field, and Boston held on to take the highest-scoring opener in World Series history, beating the St. Louis Cardinals, 11-9, Saturday night.

Bellhorn's two-run shot off Julian Tavarez in the eighth inning decided a game in which the Red Sox blew an early five-run lead. And it certainly brought back memories for everyone who watched Carlton Fisk's 12th-inning drive off the left-field pole in 1975 that stunned Cincinnati in Game 6.

All that was missing this time was Bellhorn frantically waving, trying to keep it fair, as Fisk did. No matter, the 100th World Series was off to a wild, crazy start at Fenway Park.

David Ortiz kept up his October rampage, hitting a three-run drive for Boston's first Series homer at Fenway since Fisk's famous shot in 1975. The American League Championship Series MVP wound up knocking in four runs—and knocking out a second baseman.

Larry Walker did his best for the Cardinals, but still they lost their seventh straight Series road game. He homered, doubled twice, singled and hit a fly ball that left fielder Manny Ramirez muffed, helping St. Louis make it 9-all in the eighth.

Keith Foulke got five outs for the victory as the Red Sox won their fifth straight postseason game, a surge that started when they came back from a 3-0 deficit to beat the New York Yankees.

It was surely not the best baseball ever played, with 13 walks and five errors. Yet it was entertaining.

Game 2 will be Sunday night, with Curt Schilling again testing his sewn-together ankle against St. Louis' Matt Morris.

Down 7-2, the Cardinals eventually tied it when Renteria and Walker hit RBI doubles in the sixth.

Right after, Ramirez singled home the go-ahead run in the seventh, Ortiz hit a wicked grounder that took a bad hop, clocked drawn-in Tony Womack in the collarbone and sent him to the hospital for X-rays. The RBI single made it 9-7. *AP*

MARK Bellhorn hits a two-r[...] inning that nearly goes foul [...] Boston Red Sox in Game 1.

Safin ends Agassi's Madr[...]

MADRID—Marat Safin defeated Andre Agassi, 6-3, 7-6, in the Madrid Masters on Saturday with a powerful performance that underlined his recent return to top form and secured him a place in the final against David Nalbandian.

Safin dominated the game from the start, using his strong service and some daring baseline shots to peg back Agassi, who looked tense and tired after a three-set quarterfinal battle with Spain's Tommy Robredo.

"It's a long time since I've played as well as that—a really long time," Safin said. "I knew Agassi would be a little tired after a long match yesterday, so I just concentrated on my serve."

The No. 3 seed broke the American six games in and easily held on to his lead to close out the set.

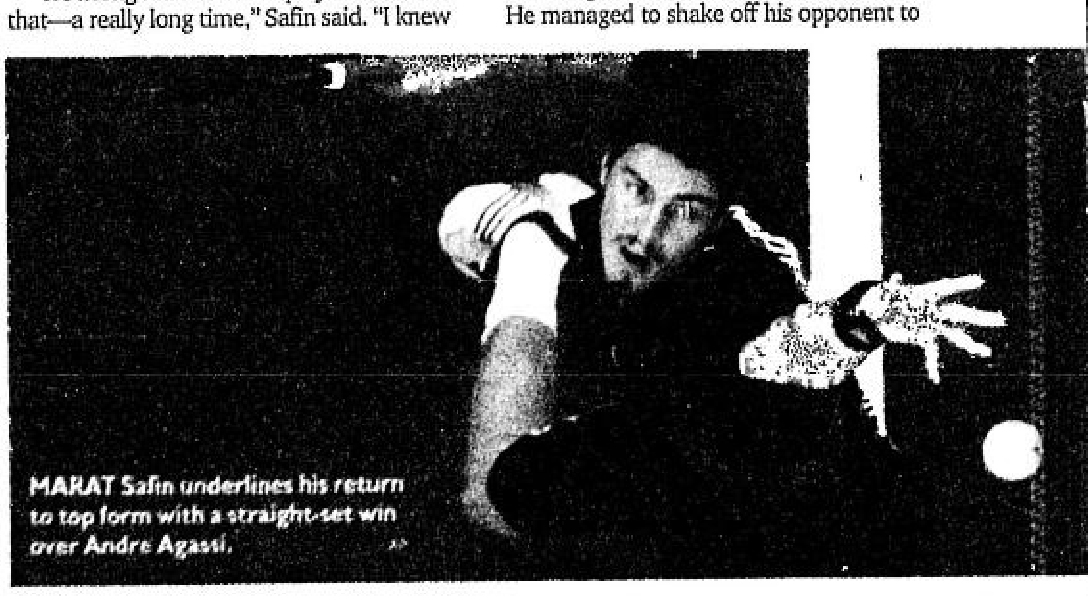
Agassi, Madrid champion in 2002, rarely threatened during the second set, despite the support of a packed crowd. He set up three break points but was unable to convert any of them and struggled to hold on to most of his service games.

He managed to shake off his opponent to claim an ear[...] came back to [...] ry in 94 minu[...]

"Safin has [...] "When it's fi[...] as anyone's."

In the earl[...] bandian beat [...]

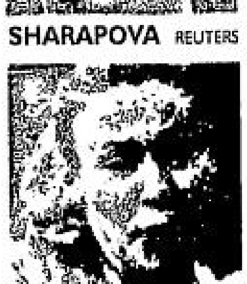
Unseeded [...] match on Fr[...] looked slugg[...] that was not [...]



MARAT Safin underlines his return to top form with a straight-set win over Andre Agassi. AP

Sharapova gains Swiss fina[...]

SHARAPOVA REUTERS



MOLIK AP

ZURICH, Switzerland—Wimbledon champion Maria Sharapova advanced to the final of the Swisscom Challenge Saturday, beating Elena Dementieva, 4-6, 6-2, 6-3, in an all-Russian semifinal.

The fourth-seeded 17-year-old—who felled Venus Williams in the quarterfinals Friday—extended her winning streak to 12 matches, boosting her bid to take three successive titles after wins in Seoul and Tokyo.

In Sunday's final, she will face Australia's Alicia Molik, victor in the second semis against the No. 10 seed, Switzerland's Patty Schnyder. Molik, the Olympic bronze medalist, also dropped the first set in her win, 4-6, 6-1, 6-4.

"I'm using the confidence that I have from Wimbledon," Sharapova said.

But she struggled in the first set, and described the match as "quite tough."

No. 3 seed Dementieva, runner-[...] the French Open and US Open, [...] making her sixth appearance [...] Swisscom Challenge.

With three aces in the first g[...] Sharapova initially looked stro[...] than the 23-year-old.

While Dementieva failed to b[...] Sharapova at 2-1, she then took ad[...] tage of a string of faults by her o[...] nent to level the set.

She broke Sharapova for 2-3 [...] won the next game easily befor[...] teenager was stung into action.

Though Sharapova pulled [...] 3-4, she lacked precision and [...] crucial points, allowing Dement[...] serve for 3-5.

Sharapova then won he[...] game, but failed to break Dement[...] in the final game, allowing her o[...] nent to take the set.

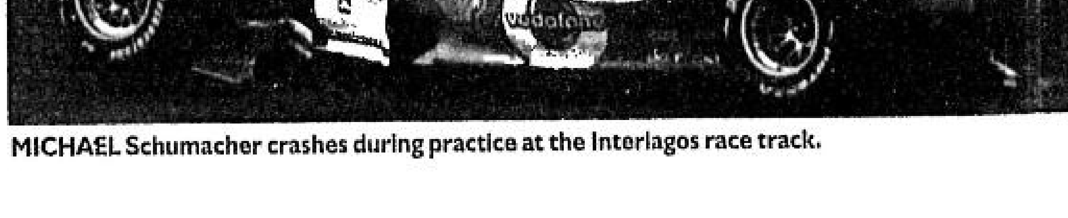
Rubens claims Brazil GP pol[...]

SAO PAULO—Ferrari's Rubens Barrichello aims to shake off a decade-long jinx after seizing pole position at his home Brazilian Grand Prix for the second year in a row on Saturday.

Barrichello has failed to finish his last nine races at Interlagos but he fired up the crowd by beating Colombian Juan Pablo Montoya to the top slot.

His success on a sunny afternoon contrasted with the plight of team mate Michael Schumacher, the seven-time world champ[...] wrecked his car in practice [...] starts the race in 18th pla[...]

Schumacher was eighth fast[...] the spare car but the cha[...] gine cost him 10 places o[...] ing grid. Re[...]



MICHAEL Schumacher crashes during practice at the Interlagos race track.

GUYITO WILD HUNT

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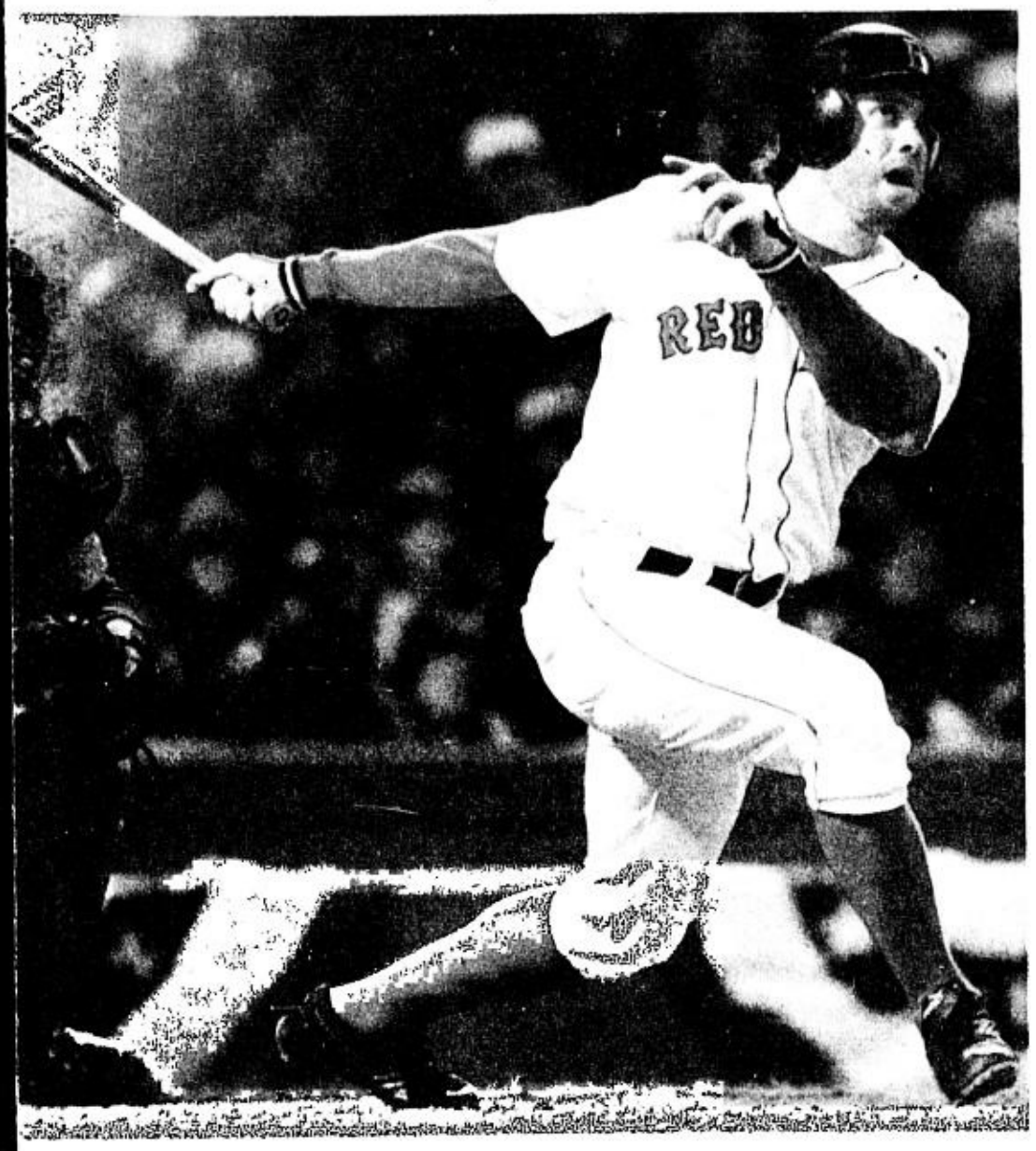

un home run in the eighth
but ends up saving the
REUTERS

id run

lead in the tiebreak but Safin
ake it, 7-4, and complete victo-
es.
really big game," Agassi said.
ng on all cylinders it's as good

r semifinal, fourth seeded Nal-
Croatia's Ivan Ljubicic, 6-4, 6-4.
Ljubicic, whose quarterfinal
ay lasted almost three hours,
h and over-reliant on a serve
nough to hold off Nalbandian.
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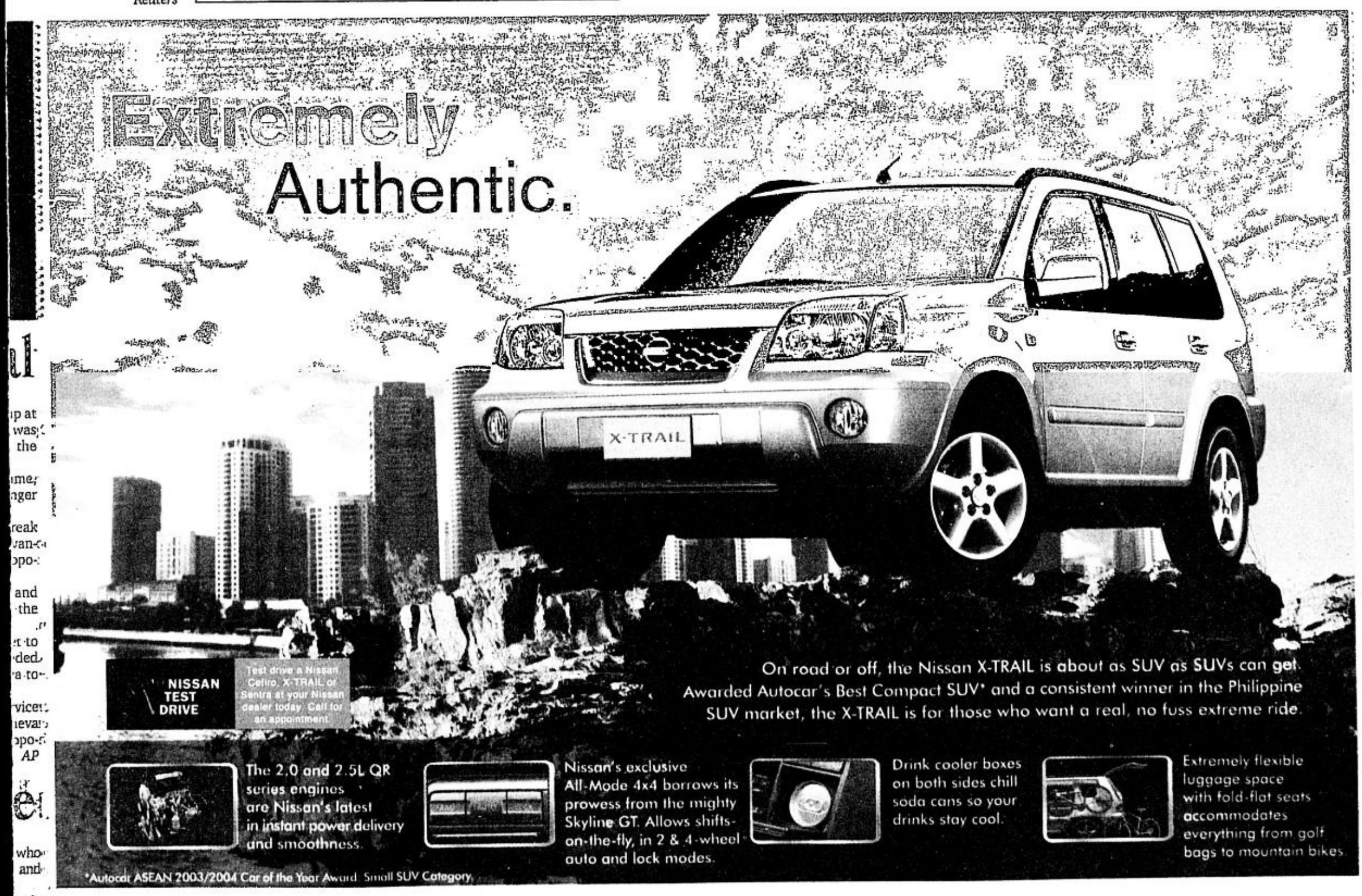

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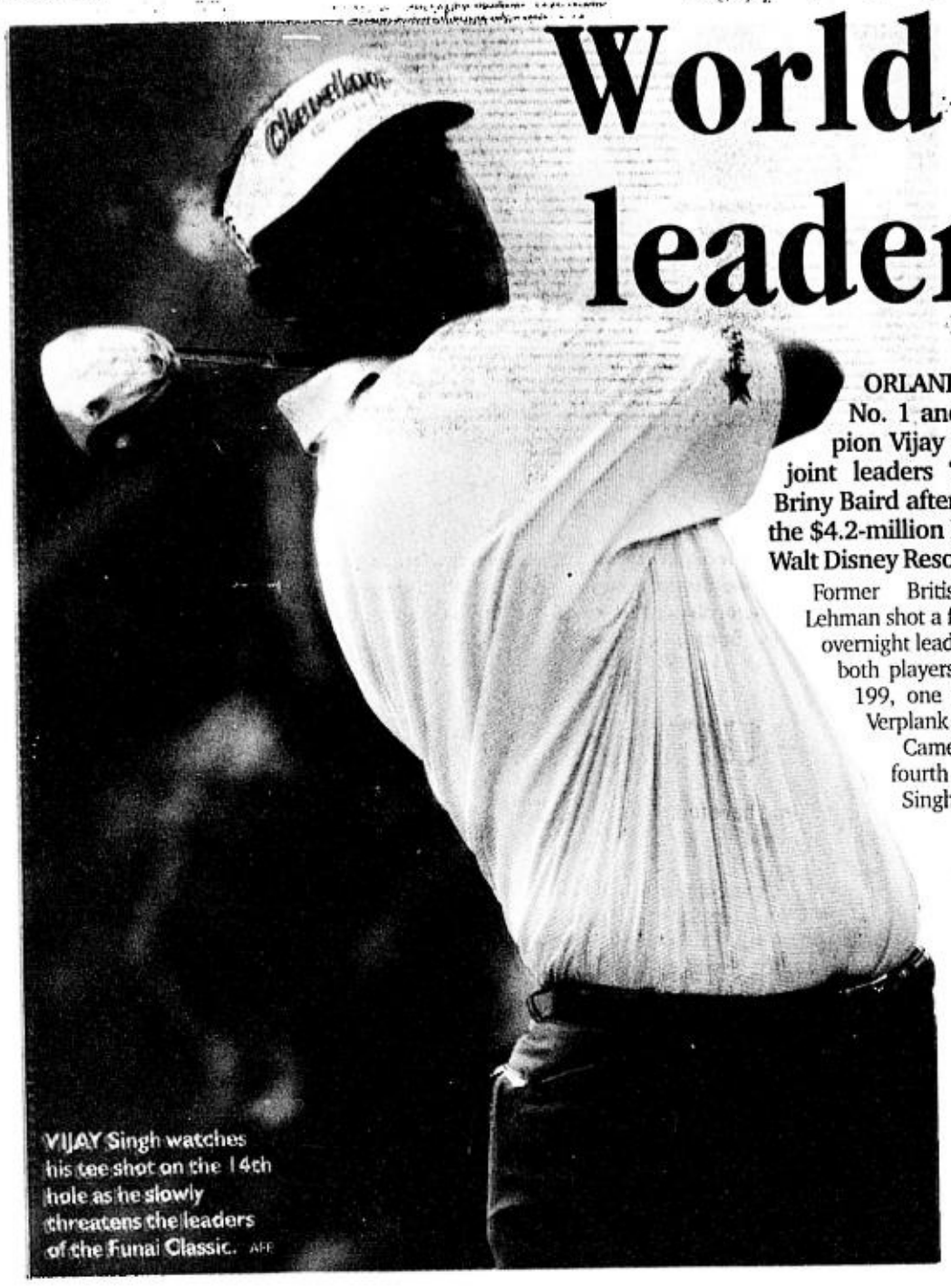
World No. 1 Singh stalks leaders of Funai golf tilt



VIJAY Singh watches his tee shot on the 14th hole as he slowly threatens the leaders of the Funai Classic. AFP

ORLANDO, Florida—World No. 1 and defending champion Vijay Singh was stalking joint leaders Tom Lehman and Briny Baird after the third round of the $4.2-million Funai Classic at the Walt Disney Resort on Saturday.

Former British Open champion Lehman shot a five-under-par 67 while overnight leader Baird carded a 68 as both players finished on 17-under 199, one stroke ahead of Scott Verplank (65).

Cameron Beckman was in fourth place on 201, with Singh, Tim Clark of South Africa, Mark Calcavecchia and Australia's Geoff Ogilvy all on 202, 14 under.

After cramming eight birdies in his seven-under 65, Singh said he fancied his chances of pulling off a fourth successive victory.

"I got myself back in there," he told reporters. "I've got a good chance tomorrow. I need to make a few birdies to catch up early." Singh has won eight times on the PGA Tour this season, including five of his last six starts.

The 41-year-old Fijian birdied five of his first seven holes on Saturday before adding three more in the opening four holes of the back nine at the Magnolia course.

Singh is one of 20 players within five strokes of joint leaders Lehman and Baird.

For the third consecutive week, Lehman, 45, who has not won for four years, finds himself leading the field after 54 holes.

He tied for second at the Las Vegas Invitational before finishing joint fourth at the Greensboro Classic last week.

Lehman missed a five-foot birdie putt at the 18th on Saturday that would have given him the outright lead.

"I feel like I had a great game plan over the last two weeks," he said. "I feel like I was very calm on the golf course and very focused and played well and just made a couple too many mistakes.

His plan for Sunday is simple—make a lot of birdies.

"Tomorrow I'm going to need to go low here," Lehman said. *Reuters*

Kite takes two-shot cushion

SONOMA, California—Tom Kite was as steady as the rain, shooting an even-par 72 to take a two-stroke lead over Jose Maria Canizares in a misty drizzle during the third round of the Charles Schwab Cup Championship.

Kite, at 10-under 206 after leading in each of the first three rounds, could become the second straight wire-to-wire winner of the Champions Tour's $2.5-million season-ending event.

He birdied the 18th hole for the third straight day, making a strong finish to a trying Saturday afternoon for every player at Sonoma Golf Club. The moderate rain began before the golfers took the course, and though the temperature never dropped excessively, nobody got comfortable—and the rain never let up.

Canizares, who hasn't won on the Champions Tour in three years, shot a 2-under 70 to move into second place, while the three golfers who trailed Kite after the second round all fell back.

Hale Irwin, needing a strong finish to keep his narrow lead in the season-long Schwab Cup competition, made three early bogeys and struggled to a 2-over 74. But Irwin was in third place at 209, just three strokes behind Kite and in position for the $1-million annuity awarded to the Schwab Cup points winner. *AP*

PLATINUM INTER-CLUB

MPC, The Zone reach national finals

By Musong R. Castillo

THE MANILA Polo Club and The Zone scored contrasting conquests yesterday and advanced to the National Finals of the Battle of the Courts: Platinum Inter-Club badminton tournament at the Yonex courts in Mandaluyong.

The MPC shuttlers dominated their first two matches over Shuttle Zone, while The Zone needed a bit of luck in prevailing over Fit2Play, which lost the deciding mixed doubles without hitting a shot.

The Zone later dominated MPC in their showdown for the area title, winning the ladies' doubles and the men's doubles in succession.

JD de Jesus and Leny Dionisio of The Zone walked over the Leo Maligalig-Evangeline Dy tandem when Maligalig failed to make it back in time for the match after attending the induction rites of his father as a general in Baguio.

"We wanted to win, but circumstances got the best of us," said Eleanor Crisostomo, the Fit2Play captain.

MPC and The Zone advanced to the crossover semifinals as the top two teams in Group A.

Rina Samson and Mariel Tiangco got the ball rolling for Manila Polo after subduing Sally Cautivo and Reyna Cano, 15-12, 15-8, in the ladies' doubles.

Luigi Reyes and Raymund Rodrigo sealed the match later, coming back from a set down to prevail, 10-15, 15-3, 7-3, as MPC joined Valle Verde, Marikina, Anvil and Alabang Country Club in the finals set Nov. 21 and 22 at the Market! Market! courts.

The tournament is also backed by Mizuno, L Timestudio, Philippine Airlines Mabuhay Miles, Gosen as the official shuttlecock, Nestlé as the official drink provider, Gerflor Taraflex as the official mat and Westin Philippine Plaza as the official hotel.

The final elimination leg of the tournament is set next weekend in Quezon City with the North eliminations.

Manila Polo also came out of the Central eliminations unscathed, winning all five of its matches to claim top spot in Group A.

The Zone inflicted a second loss on Sheridan earlier that proved vital in its march to the crossover semifinals.

Fit2Play surged to a 1-0 lead in the semis after Alejandra Pineda and Jan Maligalig defeated former model Gem Padilla and Queen Bygo, 15-11, 15-11. Alvin Ballesteros and Booboo Santos made sure that MPC would get to the deciding mixed doubles match, ripping the Voltaire Pineda-John Aquino pair, 15-4, 15-5, in the men's doubles.

Owen lifts Madrid

MADRID, Spain—Michael Owen scored his first Spanish league goal Saturday to lead Real Madrid over defending champion Valencia, 1-0.

Owen, who scored the match-winner in the seventh minute, got his first Madrid goal on Tuesday in the Champions League.

The win at the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium was Madrid's first in four matches and lifted it into seventh place. *AP*

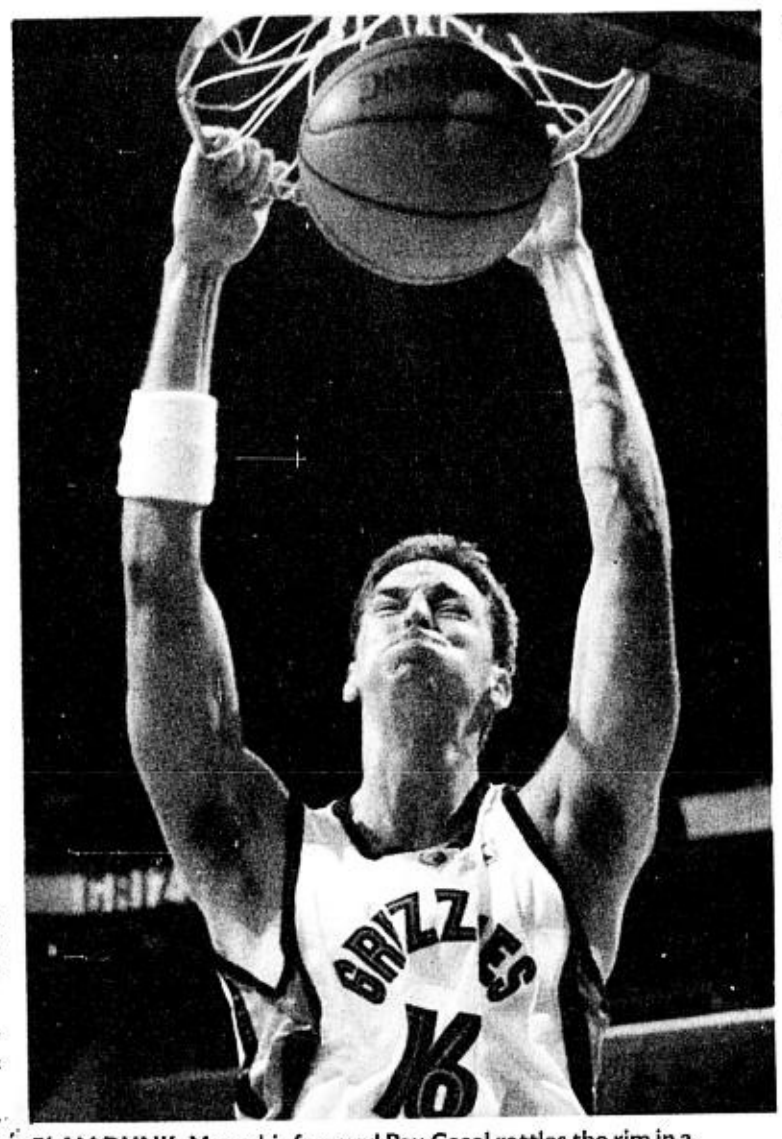
8th Sletba tournament starts

THE 8TH Panasonic-Sta. Lucia East Tenpin Bowling Association (Sletba) Open started last Saturday with Steve Hontiveros, president of the Federacion Internationale Quilleurs (FIQ) and concurrently president of the Philippine Bowling Congress, throwing the ceremonial ball.

Dennis Ramirez, Sletba president, expects the participation of the national team, including current World Champion CJ Suarez and runner-up in the distaff side Jojo Cañare. Most of the bowling associations in Metro Manila have also confirmed their participation in this tourney which ends on Oct. 31.

The tournament is divided into different categories, including seniors, novice and youth aside from the open, graded and associate categories.

It is sponsored by Panasonic, Fortune Tobacco, Pilipinas Shell and Sta. Lucia East Bowling Center.



SLAM DUNK: Memphis forward Pau Gasol rattles the rim in a preseason 104-72 rout of Atlanta. AP

'Fil-sham' fiasco: Who pulled the caper?

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

I AM not totally blaming the beleaguered PBA foreign-born players who are now undergoing summary deportation proceedings for submitting falsified documents to prove their Filipino roots. These players are more like victims in this caper and the main culprits are the agents who recruited them and prepared their papers.

And I am glad that the Department of Justice has finally started looking in earnest for those who helped the players fake their papers. In fact, PDI's Jasmine Payo reported the other day that the DOJ, through Justice Secretary Raul Gonzales, has directed the National Bureau of Investigation to form a special panel to "go after and press charges against those who had aided the cagers prepare their fake documents."

Declared 'Fil-shams' by the DOJ were Coca-Cola's Rudy Hatfield, Barangay Ginebra's Alex Crisano and Red Bull's Davonn Harp, Mick Pennisi and Jon Ordonio. Asi Taulava of Talk 'N Text was also found guilty of faking his Philippine citizenship and recommended for deportation, but he was not included in the deportation proceedings because of an earlier injunction he secured from a Manila Regional Trial Court.

As far back as four years ago, I already appealed to the proper authorities to look deeper into the intriguing case of these 'Fil-shams' and identify the masterminds behind the evil plot to exploit them—the shrewd and greedy agents who made money at the expense of these unwitting cagers and made a mockery of Philippine immigration and labor laws.

If memory serves, then Bureau of Immigration and Deportation Commissioner Rufus Rodriguez filed charges before the courts against some team officials for hiring foreign-born players without the proper work papers. He said these team officials "could not have escaped responsibility for the offense committed by the players because it was their obligation to ensure that the aliens they hired have fully complied with Philippine laws before allowing them to play for their teams." But I don't know whatever happened to the case. Was it dismissed or settled amicably?

Speaking of Fil-foreign cagers, may I remind these players to behave properly at all times while they are here earning big money and enjoying the hospitality of the Filipino people. Since they are extensions of the PBA, they should always keep their noses clean even outside the playing court and not get involved in ugly incidents such as figuring in disco brawls. They should not be arrogant, egoistic and abusive by looking down on native Filipinos. They should not be rude and should not disrespect our women.

***

STEP IN THE WRONG DIRECTION. There is no question that this cash-strapped government needs additional revenues through new tax measures. But I don't buy the proposal of Camarines Sur Rep. Felix Alfelor to restore the 30-percent amusement tax on the two racing clubs, the Manila Jockey Club Inc. and the Philippine Racing Club Inc., and on the winning tickets.

In my opinion, the idea is not practical at the moment because it is counter-productive and could lead to the early demise of the horse racing industry.

"That's killing the goose that lays the golden egg," protested Philracom chair Jaime Dilag when asked to comment on the published report. "*Hindi maganda para sa* (It's not good for the) betting public. That will only be a detriment to the growth of the racing industry," added Dilag, a former pelotari.

Dilag stressed that under the present setup, horse racing is already generating huge revenues (more than P1 billion this year) for the government from the clubs' payments of the franchise tax, sales tax and deductions from winning tickets, adding that the industry is now facing a bright future after recovering from bad times.

There is absolutely no need to "rock the boat" by making changes such as imposing a 30-percent amusement tax on the two racing clubs and the winning tickets. The proposal is retrogressive for the simple reason that instead of encouraging the fans to patronize the races, it would drive them away because they would be getting less from their winnings due to the new tax levy.

According to Alfelor, the proposed tax measure could generate additional income for the government, P1.025 billion from the MJCI and P1.3 billion from the PRCI.

***

AND THERE'S MORE . . . Key Apo, the most written-about imported horse in the country today, has been retired to stud. Key Apo is a 4-year-old dark bay colt from Australia . . . What is the reason behind the reported resignation of Philippine Racing Commission executive director and commissioner Eddie Jose? Is it true that Mr. Jose has already left for Australia where his family is based? We missed him during last Sunday's fifth Philtobo awarding ceremonies at the Santa Ana Park.

SPORTSWATCH

Lagman, Siso advance in Milo Visayas finals

CEBU CITY—Jacob Lagman ousted Carlo Ledesma, 6-3, 6-1, and Bernardine Siso routed Ralph Ramirez, 6-0, 6-1, Saturday to start their respective quests for tournament trips to Malaysia on a bright note in the Visayas regional finals of the 2004 Milo Junior Tennis Cup at the Cebu Country Club courts here. Russel Ramirez edged Nino Baylosis, 7-6, 6-3, to join Lagman in the next round of the unisex 10-under bracket. Siso advanced in the boys' 12-under division together with Jayvee Canoy, who trounced Albert Cobarde, 6-0, 6-0, in the tournament organized by CTW and supported by adidas and Malaysia Airlines. In the boys' 14-under, Ryan Montalbo downed Marvin Braza, 6-2, 6-1, and James Canete beat Bill Llevarez, 6-0, 6-2.

Breeder of the Year known Wednesday

WHO will be the LGBA Breeder of the Year? This question will be officially settled today and on Wednesday when the third and concluding stage of the Luzon Gamefowl Breeders Association's Stag Series kicks off at Roligon Mega Cockpit with 110 matches. Will current leader Banahaw II of Benjie Lim and Carrie Chua of San Pablo City be able to hold on to their lead? Or will Art J Tuba of Baguio City Councilor Tony Boy Tabora, which is just a half-point behind, be able to get the upper hand? With only 4.5 points separating the first placer from the 10th placer, it's anybody's ballgame. The derby is sponsored by Thunderbird Power Feeds, Vitarich Corp., Lakpue Drug Inc., Excellence Gamefowl Specialists, Robichem Laboratories and Asvet. One of the bets to watch is Hatawan 2004 double champion Manuel Lui of Pangasinan who is fighting stags bred out of Mayor Jezry Palmares' broodstocks.

RUNNING TALK: Bing Buenaventura (left), New Balance senior brand manager, explains the mechanics of the corporate team competition to a group of runners during Saturday's New Balance running clinic at the Rockwell Power Plant Mall. The clinic is part of the run-up to the New Balance Power race slated Nov. 21 which has put up P120,000 in cash prizes and the honor of representing the country in the Queensland NZ Marathon in April next year. The clinic continues on Oct. 30 and Nov. 6 and 13.

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Taguig cagers gun for NBC title today

CEBU CITY—North division champion Forward Taguig shoots for the NBC (National Basketball Conference) national title today when it meets Skygo-backed South winner Tribu Sugbu (Cebu Tribes) in the second game of their best-of-three series at the Cebu Coliseum here.

Mayor Freddie Tinga's cagers, who took the opener, 73-68, in Taguig are expected to have their hands full against the Cebuanos in the 6:30 p.m. contest.

It's not the first time that the Tribes of businessmen Lito Gillamac, Albert Tan and Dr. Kelly Viado have found themselves behind in a crucial series. They also trailed the Ozamiz Cotta, 0-1, in the South division finals before winning the last two and preserving their unblemished 9-0 run here.

"We failed to execute our game plan in the series opener," Tribes coach Al Solis said. "We'll make the necessary adjustments tomorrow."

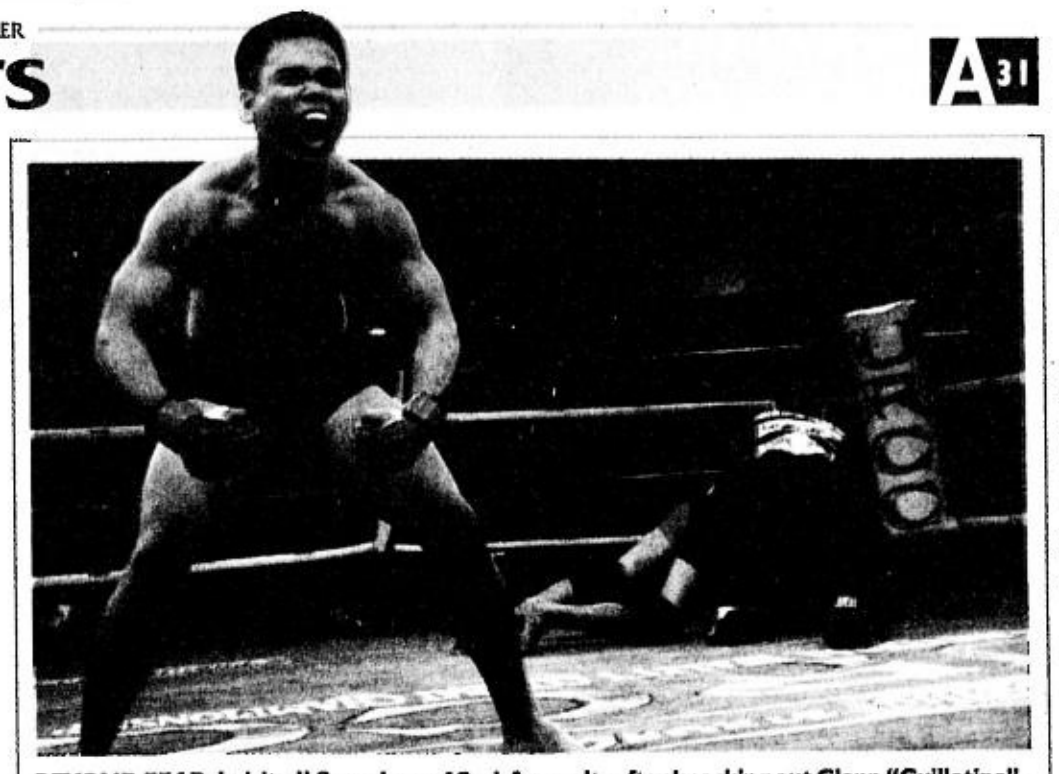
"We've won five of our last six playoff games with the help of our defense," said Taguig mentor Danny Gavieres, who piloted the FEU Tamaraws to the UAAP crown in 1997. "Now, we'll try to work harder on offense."

If the Cebuanos win, the deciding game of the series will be staged here Wednesday.

Slotman Bernard de Guia, Jimboy Robillos and Ogie Gumatay are expected to carry the load for Taguig.

The Cebuanos will bank on ex-NU Bulldog Alfie Grijaldo, Ardy Larong, Ruben de la Rosa, Jojo Tangkay, Ronald Bucao and Marlon Piodo.

NBC will present awards to the best individual players and the mythical team members before the game.



BEYOND FEAR: Luisito II Sangalang of Sari-An exults after knocking out Glenn "Guillotine" Evangelista of Strikes and Submissions to bag the featherweight crown of the 5th Universal Reality Combat Championship's "Beyond Fear" mixed martial arts fight card at the Casino Filipino Amphitheatre, Saturday. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Samsung Celebrity Invitational golf tourney roster swells

MORE golf-struck stars have beefed up the roster for the first Samsung Celebrity Invitational Classic set this Friday at the Legends course of the Manila Southwoods Golf and Country Club in Carmona, Cavite.

Among the latest to confirm their entries are the swinging couples Gellie de Belen and Ariel Rivera, Noel and Lally Trinidad, Vernie Varga and Ric Oledan and William Martinez and Yayo Aguila.

Television bigwigs Bert de Leon, Al Quinn and Tony Reyes, as well as prominent newscaster Angelo Castro are also in the long list of stars playing in the strictly-by-invitation only event conceptualized by Kitchie Benedicto-Paulino of KB Entertainment, Inc.

Benedicto-Paulino said there will be no less than 120 players, including Samsung CEO Sang Youl Eom, Southwoods chair Bob Sobrepena and Gov. Victor Ortega, vying for the many prizes at stake in the 18-hole tournament.

"We're just glad that celebrities will finally be given the chance to be together again on the fairways and have a fun day," said TV host-comedian Vic Sotto, who will be leading the charge for his big golfing clan.

Said Johnny Litton: "It's a perfect way to unwind and have fun. This star-studded affair will definitely be one of this year's big events."

The tournament received a major boost with the entry of Smart Communications as one of the major sponsors, together with Samsung and Toyota Motors Phils., which is giving away a Toyota Camry worth almost P3 million as a hole-in-one prize.

Benedicto-Paulino also cited the support of Unilever Phils., Colgate-Palmolive, Bay Spa, French Baker, Federal Hardware, Bong Lopez, Onda Enterprises, C-lium, Intercontinental Hotel, New World Renaissance, Bellevue Hotel, MMM International, Taal Vista Hotel, Pearl Farm Davao, Dusit Nikko Hotel, Boracay Regency, Sutera Harbour Resort-Kota Kinabalu, Fridays Boracay, Wilson, Callaway, Pacsports, Jack Nicklaus, Travelbug and Golf Depot.

Agojo fires 68, lifts RP to 18th

From page A26

and 77.

"We're proud of this team. If not for opening-day jitters, we could have landed in the top 10," said National Golf Association of the Philippines secretary-general Luisito Fernandez.

Although there is no official trophy, Sjidon and 17-year-old Julieta Granada (69) of Paraguay, the 2004 US Girls' Junior champion who shot a 63 in the third round, tied for the best individual record at eight-under 280.

Japan, Korea and Chinese Taipei finished tied for fourth at 579, Colombia finished seventh at 581, Spain was eighth at 583 and Germany and New Zealand tied for ninth at 589.

The men's competition for the Eisenhower Trophy starts on Oct. 28 with Juvic Pagunsan, Michael Bibat and Artemio Murakami representing the Philippines.

The RP campaign is sponsored and supported by the Philippine Sports Commission, Philippine Olympic Committee, Philippine Airlines, Mizuno, Master Sports, Boardwalk, Stronghold Insurance Co., Inc., Dynamic Sports, Mt. Malarayat Golf and Country Club, Riviera Golf Club, Alabang Country Club, Villamor Golf Club, Camp Aguinaldo Golf Club, Canlubang Golf and Country Club and TAT Filipinas Golf and Country Club. *Musong R. Castillo*

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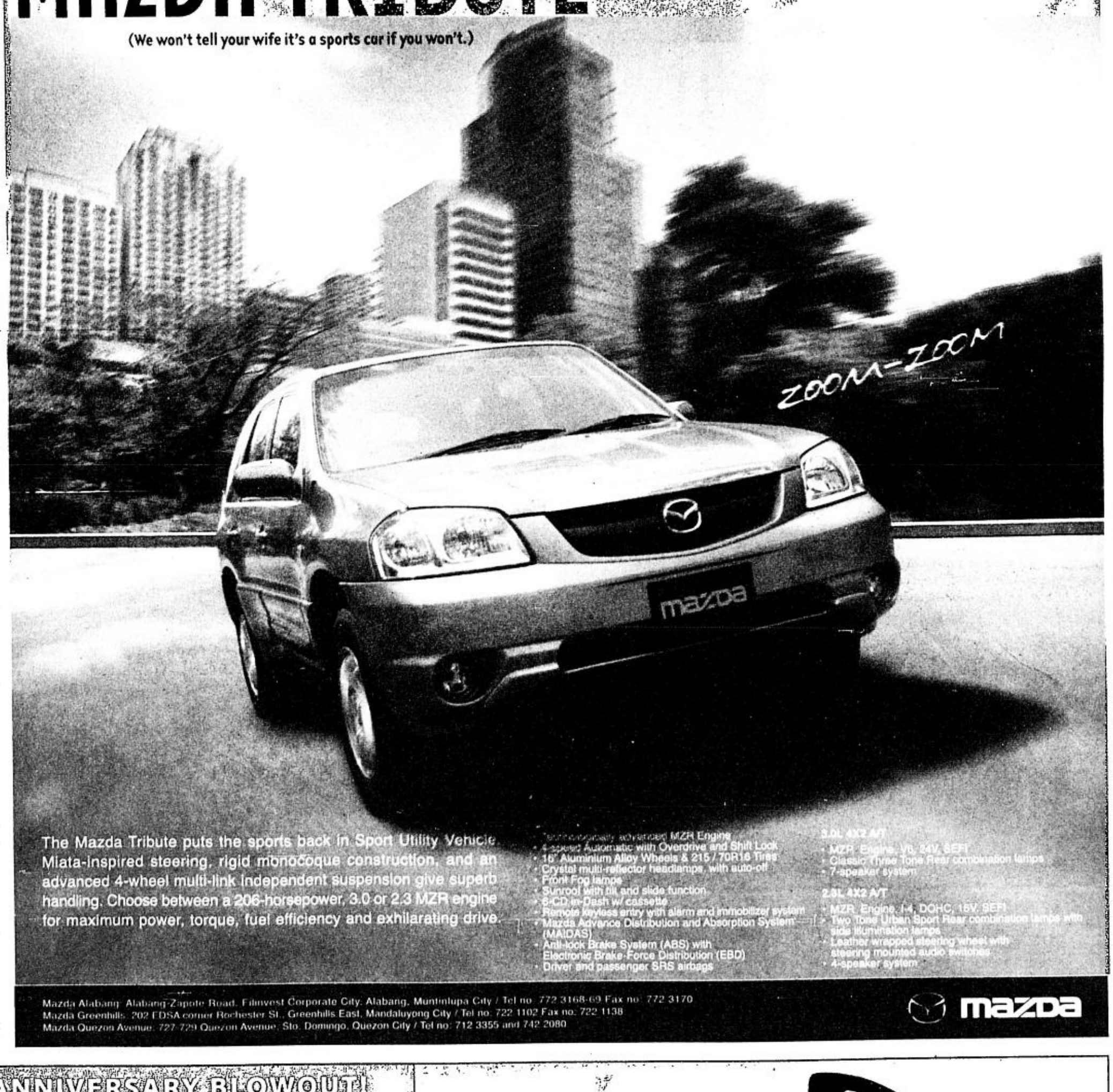

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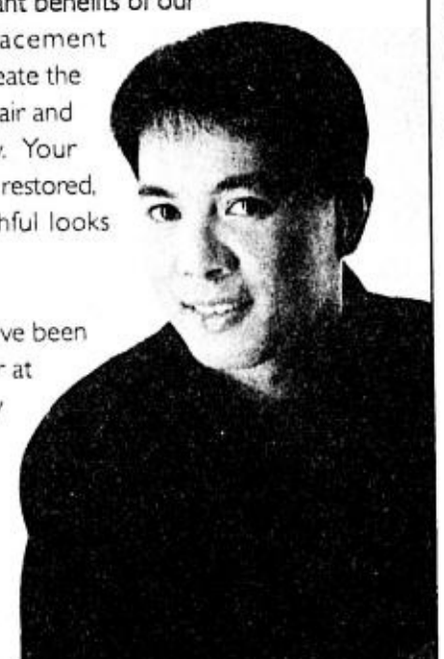

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Wire-to-wire Derby charge by Don Paolo

By Edwin Villanueva, *Contributor*

DON Paolo capped a sizzling show by the father-and-son tandem of Rudy and Paolo Mendoza by stealing the limelight in the Klub Don Juan de Manila Derby yesterday at the San Lazaro Leisure Park.

Superbly handled by top rider Pat Dilema, Don Paolo set a searing pace and then found a sixth gear in the mad dash for home to hold off the late charging Sexiest and complete a treble for the Mendoza stable before a jampacked crowd at the Carmona, Cavite, track.

The 2,000-meter race had been billed as a showdown between Empire King and Cover Girl. But Don Paolo had other things in mind, bursting ahead from the start and never looking back as Dilema notched his fourth victory for the day.

Earlier, he partnered two other Mendoza gallopers to big wins, with outsider Super Hero nosing out Pyramid Relaunch in the Juvenile, and Favorite Trick outkicking Lord of the Ring in the William Dagan-sponsored 2nd Juanito Macaraig Cup.

"*Buwenas lang* (Just lucky). Thank you Lord," said Rudy Mendoza, who also doubles up as trainer of horses owned by Sta. Lucia Realty guard Paolo. "We prepared very hard for this event."

Don Paolo, a 3-year-old bay colt sired by Medium Cool out of Vice Royal, snatched the top Derby prize of P1.16 million. He clocked 2:08.5 (25-25-26.5-26).

"*Di nalutsa kaya naka-buo ng ayre at nakatagal* (He was never pressed early on that's why he lasted the route)," said Dilema, who also booted home Magic Dancer to first place in the Manuel Henson Cup.

Bernadette Cooper finally nailed a triumph for the visiting Australian jockeys, displaying the distinct Aussie riding style in guiding longshot Oliver Sun Joy to victory in the 2nd Don Antonio Floirendo Cup.

"It's so nice to win here. I'm looking forward to coming back to your great country," said the 30-year-old Cooper, who was wildly applauded as she guided Oliver Sun Joy back to the winner's circle.

The Dos Ranchos Jofero entry prevailed by three lengths over another longshot, King Rick.

Don Paolo, never a factor in the recent Triple Crown, finished two lengths ahead of Sexiest, who was followed home by first choice Cover Girl, stablemate I Love This Game, Shadowfax, Empire King, Honoris Causa and Vindicated.

Empire King tried to keep pace with the fleet-footed Don Paolo but paid the price, fading badly at mid-backstretch. For a while, it appeared Cover Girl would unleash her trademark big kick, but Don Paolo would not be denied this time.

The Derby was the culmination of a four-day racing spectacle organized by the KDJM, which was represented yesterday by its chair, Pampanga Rep. Mikey Arroyo, president Sonny Arevalo, VP Jun Almeda, and directors Dagan and Marlon Cunanan.

RP crushes Indons . . . From page A27

That year, Antonio played white eight times in 12 matches. Antonio's refusal to play black forced Torre to play the top board to enable Paragua and Laylo to play the white pieces.

The women's team has no such problem.

Women Fide Master Sheerie Joy Lomibao, Women IM Beverly Mendoza and rookie Loreshyl Cuison have been playing without relief.

In Saturday's eighth round, the Filipinas bounced back from a 0-3 setback to Serbia Montenegro by blasting Mexico, 2-1.

Lomibao whipped WIM Yadira Hernandez while Mendoza and Cuizon drew with WIM Edith Garcia and WIM Alejandra Guerrero, respectively. The Filipinas have 11.5 points in a tie for 47th place.

Beermen halt slide, down Aces From page A25

7, Hawkins 6, Thoss 2, Duat 2, Tejada 1, Wilson 0, Feihl 0.

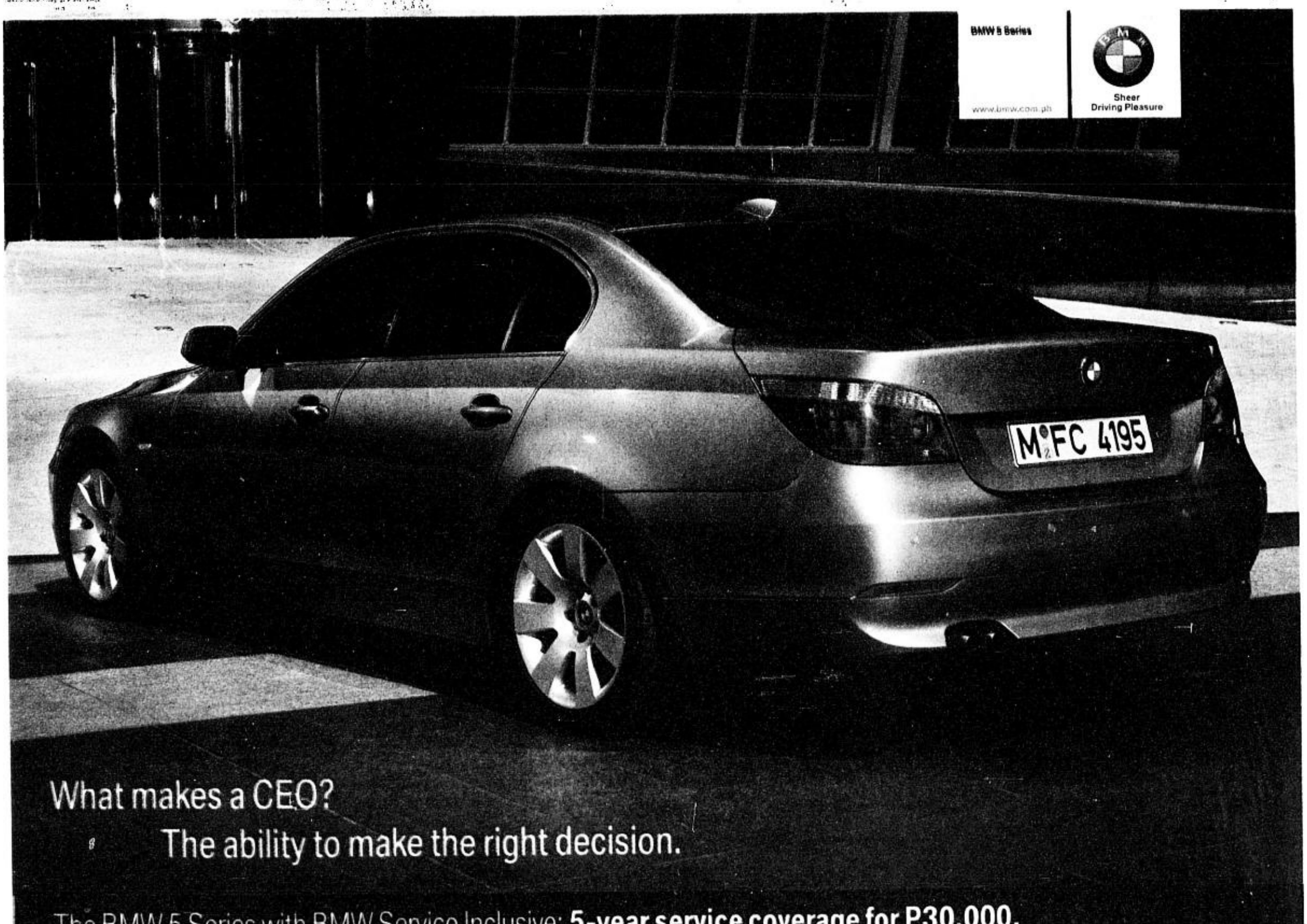
Quarters: 15-13, 32-31, 58-51, 75-67.

Second Game

SHELL 86—Dela Cruz 28, Mamaril 10, Tubid 9, Calaguio 9, Legaspi 8, Cruz 7, Jackson 6, Bajar 5, Alvarez 2, Sta. Maria 2, Ferreria 0.

GINEBRA 81—Helterbrand 24, Adducul 20, Santos 11, Salvacion 8, Caguioa 7, Noble 4, Seigle 3, David 2, Menk 2, Dimaunahan 0.

Quarters: 22-11, 44-43, 66-64, 86-81



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My kids were kept away from me, says ex-Hagibis

MISSING DAD. Bernie Fineza (above left), formerly of Hagibis, was surprised when he saw Kirby on TV all grown up. The last time he saw the boy was when Kirby was 8. "I want them back," the absent father says now.

By Nini Valera

THE FATHER of "StarStruck" finalist Kirby de Jesus denied that he abandoned the boy and failed to support him through childhood.

Bernie Fineza, former member of the '70s pseudo rock group Hagibis, the country's answer to America's Village People, told INQUIRER Entertainment last Saturday that he did not leave his children to fend for themselves.

Last week, Kirby denounced his father during a press conference. *"Itinatakwil ko siya,"* the boy said. *"Pinabayaan niya kami* [I am disowning my dad. He abandoned us]."

Bernie said he wanted to take care of Kirby, whom he calls KB, and his other kids, Bernard and Bernadette, after he separated from their mother, his common-law wife, Margarita, about seven years ago.

"But I was not given a chance to do that," he claimed. "They were kept away from me. God knows that I have been looking for them, but it was like a game of hide-and-seek."

Kirby was unavailable for an interview last Saturday. GMA 7 publicity manager Jayce Perlas said Kirby and the other "StarStruck" finalists were taping for the show.

Bernie said that when he saw Kirby on television recently as one of the "StarStruck" finalists, he was surprised that his eldest son was all grown up.

"I last saw him when he was 8," Bernie confessed. "I feel happy for my son, but I feel bad about his accusations. It's so painful, really. They know very well that I have never been a bad father to them. I want them back."

2 other kids

His children and their mother, Maita, had gone to the wake of Bernie's mother in 1997, according to the former Hagibis man. He said he wanted to approach his children then but he was kept away from them.

"I know I am not the perfect father," he said, "but I am not the worst father either. I love them, I miss them, I want to hug them."

He claimed that after he and Maita separated, he tried working things out with her.

"I asked if I could visit the kids, and we had an agreement about that," he related. "But nothing happened. I could not find my children."

He said he was also surprised

MY KIDS/ A34

Son in 'StarStruck' says Bernie Fineza abandoned them

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Ethel Booba, crazy show-girl /A36

BRANDON Routh

Little-known actor is new 'man of steel' /A37

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Inspiring interview

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

OPRAH Winfrey's TV show recently scored a coup when Oprah interviewed **Condoleeza Rice**, US president **George Bush**'s "right-hand woman." It was exciting to see two of the most powerful black women in the world relating so well to each other.

The interview must have been an inspiration to other "minority" women. It proved that they, too, could rise above discrimination, financial limitations and relative lack of opportunities, through sheer dint of talent, brains and resolve.

Rice is hailed as one of Bush's most trusted advisers, while Winfrey is the most successful black woman in media and entertainment.

Instructively, they got to where they are now on their own merits and despite some early drawbacks, like Oprah's having been a victim of sexual abuse when she was in her early teens.

For her part, Rice revealed that her folks didn't have much, but she didn't let that prevent her from winning scholarships, playing classical piano, becoming an expert on Russian affairs, and becoming an invaluable member of Bush's top-level team.

Winfrey made sure that Rice shared the "secrets" of her success with her viewers, in the hope that some of them would similarly shine in their chosen fields.

She asked her special guest what made her overcome the many problems and crises that have come her way in the course of her life and work, and Rice replied: "We have to always be prepared, never take ourselves seriously—and pray!"

Asked what advice she would give to students in particular, Rice shared: "Tell yourself, 'I'm going to be what's interesting to me, and not let anyone decide what that is!'"

What keeps her going, despite the immense pressures of her daunting job? "I want to help make the world realize that America stands for more than power. It stands for ideals."

And: "I want to help make the world safer, and better. *And* I want to make sure that what happened on Sept. 11 can't happen again."

Was there anything that she could reveal about George Bush that most people didn't know? "When you have dinner with him, eat fast."

How come? "He's so busy and driven, he tries to save as much time as he can. And he's an athlete, he watches what he eats."

The episode hit an emotional high when an adolescent fan of Ms Rice was introduced to her. The girl was so overwhelmed at finally meeting the person she admired most that she broke down, and the interview wasn't able to proceed until Rice had calmed her young fan down.

That moment showed that, despite her top-level government post and her immense power, Rice was warm and caring.

And, for her sobbing fan, she had the most inspiring words of all: "Always believe: It's OK to be smart!"

Oprah seconded *that* motion, and we hoped that the hundreds of thousands of young people watching the show took those words to heart!

US polls on CNN

CNN offers comprehensive international coverage of the 2004 race for the US presidency. Special programming includes pre- and post-election editions of "Larry King Live," with guests from politics, journalism and entertainment discussing the ramifications of the result."

"America Votes 2004" is a special election preview, which focuses on the latest surveys and analyses.

Richard Quest will gauge reactions and comments from voters, while **Jonathan Mann** anchors CNN's coverage on Nov. 3.

"America Votes" airs at 9 a.m. on Nov. 1. CNN International airs live from 8 a.m. onward on Nov. 3, providing updates on the results of the elections.

New Rialto feature

FANS of Enchanted Kingdom's Rialto Theater can now enjoy watching "Smash Factory," a new feature film by iWerks that takes viewers through a hilarious speed adventure loaded with lots of fun.

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The Rialto Theater is a motion simulator cinema that combines sight, sound and movement to heighten the movie-going experience. Call 8302111 to 17.

Merk's fundraiser

MERK'S Bar Bistro hosts a special fundraising concert for **Paquito Diaz** on Nov. 8. Celebrity guests include **Eddie Garcia, Dolphy, Eddie Mesa, Rudy Fernandez, Michael V, Bobot Mortiz, Leo Martinez, Allan K, Victor Wood, Noel Trinidad, Vic Sotto, Jacqui Magno, Bimbo Cerrudo** and **Montet Acoymo**. Call 7574720.

'Crying Ladies' vs 48 other foreign films vie for Oscar

From page A35

best actress for the much-praised Catalina Sandino Moreno and best screenplay for Joshua Marston, an American, who also directed.

Five nominees for the best foreign-language film from this field of 49 entries, along with the contenders in the other Oscar categories for the 77th annual awards, will be announced by the Academy on Jan. 25.

The Oscar awards show will be held on Feb. 27 at Hollywood's Kodak Theater.

Among the other countries battling it out are Afghanistan, Brazil, last year's winner Canada, Egypt, Estonia, France, Germany, India, Iran, Israel, Palestine, Taiwan, Thailand and Venezuela.

The official entries for the 77th Academy Awards were picked from among submissions from 89 nations that were asked to put in films for consideration as best foreign-language film.

Malaysia is the only country on this year's list of entrants never to have vied for the famed golden Oscar statuette.

The Malaysian film "A Legendary Love" is the tragic love story of a princess and a Malay warrior and was well received at the Venice Film Festival earlier this year.

Afghanistan's entry is director Atiq Rahimi's film, "Earth and Ashes," a wrenching drama about life during the country's intractable civil war.

China's "House of Flying Daggers," from director Zhang Yimou, premiered at the Cannes Film festival. It is a highly-acclaimed martial arts epic that follows Zhang's film, "The Hero," which has been a major hit in the United States this year.

"Nobody Knows," from filmmaker Hirokazu Kore-eda, was selected as Japan's entry and is the moving story of four children who are forced to rely on one another after they are abandoned by their mother.

Spain's entry, Alejandro Amenabar's "Mar Adentro" (Out to Sea), about a paralyzed man who wants to commit suicide, won the jury grand prize Silver Lion award at the Venice film festival.

SMILING MAN. "Crying Ladies" director Mark Meily

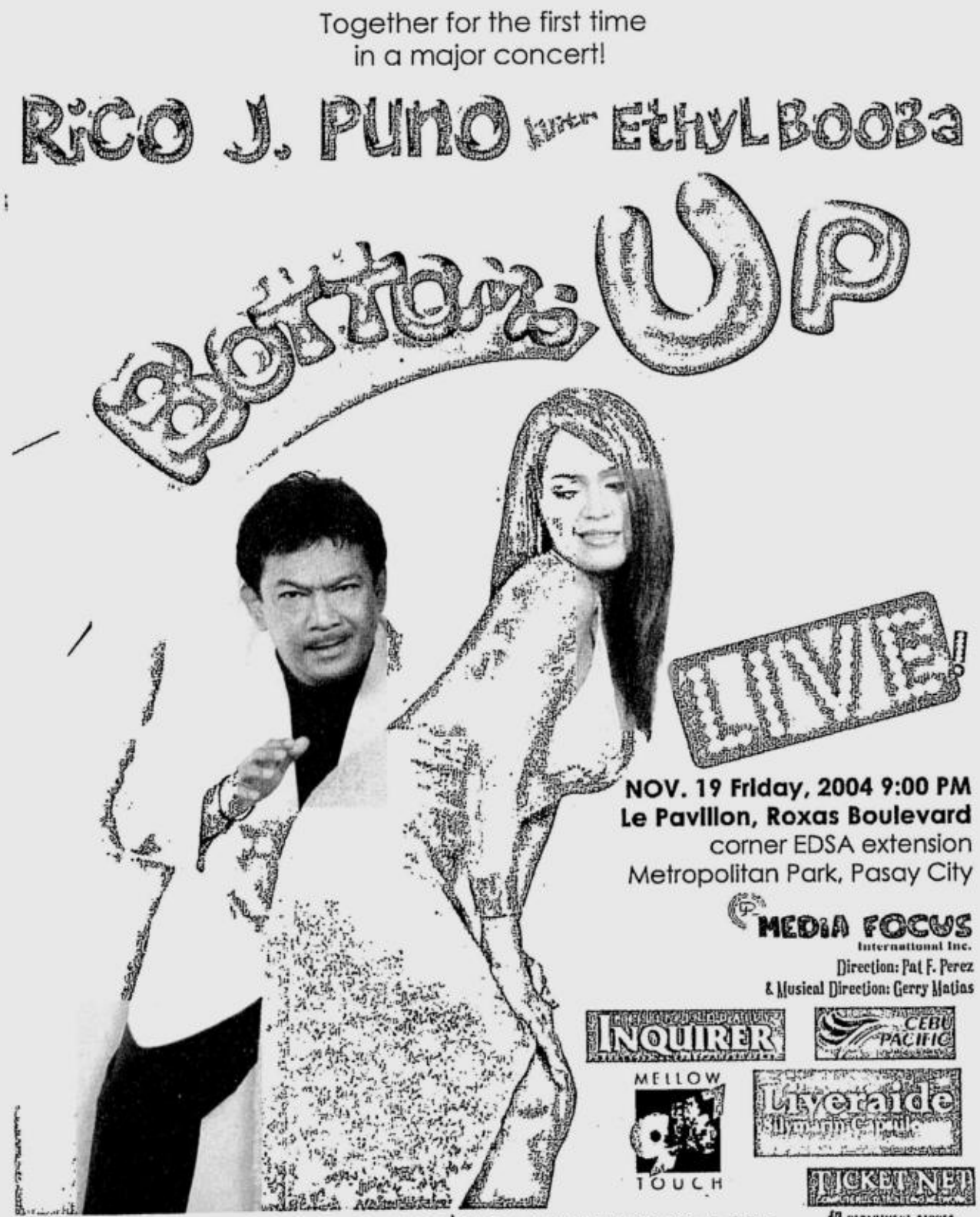
France's submission, "Les Choristes" by Christophe Barratier, tells the story of a group of reform schoolboys having their lives in post-war France changed by a choirmaster and was a major hit in its home country.

"Le Chiave di Casa" (The House Keys) by director Gianni Amelio is Italy's hopeful for the best foreign-language film gong, telling of a young father, meeting his 15-year-old handicapped son, Paolo, for the first time.

India's official entry is Sandeep Sawant's low-budget "Shwaas," which cost just $76,500 to make, and was picked to compete after beating out big-budget Bollywood films.

Six movies in the past have won both the best foreign-language film Oscar and another Academy Award, including the 2000 Chinese-language film "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon," which won four Oscars.

Italy's "Life Is Beautiful" also won the best actor Oscar for its star, Roberto Benigni, and the Oscar for best original score in 1998. *With a report from AFP*



My kids were kept away . . .

From page A33

to learn on TV that Maita already had two other children by another man.

"That might be the reason why she's staying away from me," Bernie said. "But she won't hear anything from me. I don't want to say anything against her. What is hurting me, though, is that I was never given a chance to be a father to my kids.

"I expect them to respect me the way I respect them," he continued, referring to Maita and whoever she is with now. "I don't say anything against them. I want them to be quiet and to lay off me."

He also wants to give Kirby a piece of advice. "Don't be affected by what you hear," he said. "Don't be used by people who want to get back at me. What's important is you should respect me as someone who had been part of your life even if you can't accept me as a father."

He said he wants Kirby to win the talent show "without using me and our relationship" to drum up interest and win public sympathy.

"Whatever happens, whatever they do, I am still their father," he said. "I will fight for them and continue loving them. If I was not the perfect father for them, then I'm sorry."

He claims that someone is robbing Kirby of his childhood and taking advantage of his innocence.

"I am sure that someone is just using him to get back at me," Bernie said. "But this I tell [Kirby]: I want him to be a man, to be responsible for his actions, and to use his intelligence. I have been longing to see them. If he cannot forgive me, I can't do anything."

'Crying Ladies' vs 48 other foreign films for Oscar

By Ruben V. Nepales
LA Correspondent

LOS ANGELES—"Crying Ladies," Mark Meily's feature about professional mourners in Manila's Chinatown, was officially announced by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences president Frank Pierson last Thursday as one of the entries submitted by 49 countries for consideration in the best foreign-language film category.

Winner of the best picture award in the 2003 Metro Manila Film Festival, "Crying Ladies" went on to earn good reviews and enthusiastic reception at film festivals around the world.

The film and its performances by Sharon Cuneta, Hilda Koronel, Angel Aquino, Eric Quizon and Ricky Davao were praised by critics when it was shown in major US cities, from Los Angeles to New York.

Cindy Sison, head of the international film sales of Unitel Pictures, which produced the film, told INQUIRER Entertainment that a favorable response at the Montreal Film Festival encouraged Unitel to release "Crying Ladies" theatrically in Canada.

Sison expects the film, which opens in Toronto on Nov. 26, to attract not only the Filipino community but mainstream audiences as well.

Meily's film feature directorial debut, along with Maryo J. de los Reyes' "Magnifico," are set to open the Brussels Independent Film Festival on Nov. 2. "Crying Ladies" will also be released theatrically in Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg, according to Sison.

The Tony Gloria-produced Philippine entry faces strong competition from bets placed by such countries as Spain, whose "The Sea Inside" was a standout at the Venice Film Festival and features a performance by Javier Bardem that's generating Oscar best actor buzz; Belgium, "The Alzheimer Case"; China, "House of Flying Daggers"; Japan, "Nobody Knows"; South Africa, "Yesterday," and South Korea, "Tae Guk Gi."

Malaysia is fielding an entry, Saw Teong Hin's "A Legendary Love," for the first time.

Colombia is planning to appeal the Academy's decision to refuse "Maria Full of Grace," its acclaimed entry about a Colombian drug mule. Industry reports speculated that "Maria Full of Grace" and several other entries may have been refused because of the Academy's rule that in order for a film to be considered as coming from a certain country, it must be truly made by talents from that country.

HBO Films, which released the film in the US, is reportedly planning an aggressive Oscar campaign for

'CRYING LADIES'/ A34

HOPEFUL MOVIE. "Crying Ladies," starring (from left) Angel Aquino, Sharon Cuneta and Hilda Koronel as professional mourners at wakes in Manila's Chinatown, was best picture awardee in the 2003 Metro Manila Film Festival.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
TV GUIDE
Monday, October 25, 2004

INQredible Pinoys! Byline Inquirer Inquirer In-Depth

Ngayong Huwebes, 10:30pm!

INQ INQ TV TV

Dito lang sa ABC

ClickTheCity.com

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABS-CBN		Sarah The Teen Princess	Maid In Heaven	Sandara's Romance	Tokyo Underground	Samurai X	Get Backers	Ragnarok	TV Patrol	Star Circle Nat'l Teen Quest	Krystala	Marina	Hiram	It Might Be You	OK Fine! Whatever			Insider	The Correspondents
NBN	Value Vision	Motoring Today		Gold & Glory In Greece								Teledyarya				Doll M		Oras ng Katotohanan	
ABC	Problema Nyo, Sagot Ko	Art Is-Kool	Anime Ring Kaisho				Sentro	Friends	The Apprentice		Fear Factor		Big News	Divetsahan	URCC		Dream Music Videos		Saksi
GMA	Leya (2:45 PM)	Joyride (3:15 PM)	Twin Sisters' 100% Sefiorita		One Piece	Rune Soldier	Slam Dunk	24 Oras		Extra Challenge		Mutawan (7:50 PM)		Starstruck (8:50 PM)	Forever In My Heart	Lagot Ka, Isusumbong Kita		Wed TV	Healthline
RPN	Metro TV Shopping			Island Life		Wild Thornberries	Sponge Bob	Invader Zim	Entertainment Tonight	Just For Laughs		F1 & Sports Special				Newswatch Now	Sex & the City		
IBC		Ating Alamin		Home Shopping Network		IBC Express Balita		Home Shopping Network		WWE Smackdown		Japan Video Topic		Retro TV	Global Family Series		IBC News Tonite	Linawan Natin	
Solar		Wow		Slamball		Retsel	Thunder Sub	Zeta Project	Henry Gear	Deep Space Nine		Witchblade		Twilight Zone		No Mercy			
Nickelodeon	Dora, The Explorer	Little Bear	Blues Clues	SpongeBob SquarePants	All That	Are You Afraid of the Dark?	100 Deeds of Eddie McDowd	Are You Afraid of the Dark?	Invader Zim/ Catdog/ Adventures of Jimmy Neutron	Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants	As Told By Ginger	Are You Afraid of the Dark?	All That	100 Deeds of Eddie McDowd	The Amanda Show	Rocket Power	The Wild Thornberrys	The Brother's Garcia
ETC		The O.C.		Saturday Night Live		Starting Over		NBC Nightly News	Entertainment Tonight	Will & Grace	JKX	Most My Folks		Queer Eye For A Straight Guy		Dateline		Nip Tuck	
Cinema One	Bakit Pa Kita Mahal				Mia					Megamol				Mano Po				Tuhog	
Studio 23	Bewitched	Survivor: Thailand						Batman Animated Series	Samurai Deeper Kyo	Wazzup Wazzup	World's Craziest Video	Jake 2.0		Charmed		News Central	The Oprah Winfrey Show		Travel Time
AXN		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation		CSI		Rescue 911	Rated X	Samurai X	Samurai X	24		Fear Factor		The Shield		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation		CSI	
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		Hollywood Squares	Home Improvement	Baywatch		The Simpsons	The Drew Carey Show	Star News Asia	Just Shoot Me	That 70s Show	Still Standing/ Everybody Loves Raymond	Yes Dear	Backer	Boston Public		Just Shoot Me	That 70s Show
CNN		Business International		Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	Business International		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	Living Golf	World News Asia		Your World Today	
National Geographic	On Assignment	Killer Instincts		The Snake Wranglers	Croc Chronicles with Dr. Brady Barr	Mission Wild	Africa From The Ground Up	The Snake Wranglers	Croc Chronicles With Dr. Brady Barr	Wild		About Asia/Totally Wild	Totally Wild	National Geographic Specials		Killer Instincts	Totally Wild	Be The Creature	
Lifestyle Network	Country Style	Interiors By Design	Decorating With Style	Decorating Cents	Moto Mano	Sweet Dreams	30 Minute Meals	Bill Boggs Corner	Unwrapped	Food 911	El True Hollywood Story		Behind The Velvet Ropes	Area		Breaking Room	Genuine Article	Planet Parent	30 Minute Meals
HBO				Time Of The Wolf			Intersection (5.40 PM)				Cradle 2 The Grave			Money Train			Blood Work (10:45PM)		
Star Movies	Splash (2:20 PM)			Football Junkies (4.15 PM)			Enemies Of Laughter (5.45 PM)			Hackers (7.15 PM)				Star Wars Episode 2 - Attack Of The Clones					Trapped (11:20PM)
Cartoon Network	Scooby-Doo Show	The All New Popeye Show		Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	Sylvester & Tweety Mysteries	Police Academy	Swat Kats	Teen Titans	Yu-Gi-Oh!	Digimon Frontiers	Codename: Kids Next Door	The Looney Tunes Show	Courage The Cowardly Dog	The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	The Addams Family	The Funky Phantom	Boomerang - Boomeration	Yu-Gi-Oh!
ESPN	English Premier Football League 2004/05				MLB World Series 2004 Game #2							Sportscenter Taiwan	MLB World Series 2004 Game #2						
Disney Channel	Kim Possible	Totally Spies	Lizzie Maguire	Even Stevens	That's So Raven	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	The Legend Of Tarzan	Lilo & Stitch	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Wonderful World Of Disney			My Wife And Kids	That's So Raven	Even Stevens	America's Funniest Home Video	Wonderful World Of Disney	
Cinemax	A Death In The Family			Borderline			Black Point			King Kong Lives (7.15 PM)				Born On The Fourth Of July				Lightning Bolts Of Destruction	
Hallmark Channel	Mad About You	Napoleon				Play With Me Sesame	Sesame Street		Bewitched	Family Law		The District		Choosing Mothers			Judging Amy (10.35PM)		Family Law (11.25PM)
Discovery Channel		Monster Garage		Mythbusters		Wild Discovery		Ultimate Discovery		Unsolved History				Wild Discovery		Ultimate Discovery		Civilizations	
MTV Philippines		MTV Lokal		Non-Stop Hits		Non-Stop Hits		MTV Get Spozed	MTV Loveline	Duets 101 Usher	The Killers: A Rock Special	MTV Brand New	MTV Fashionista	TRL		Cribs	Spring Break	VH1 Hits/Video Collection	
EWTN	Catholic Morality & The Catechism	The Chaplet Of Divine Mercy	At The Crossroads	Story Keepers	Image Of God	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	Threshold Of Hope Encore		The Last Things: In Time & Eternity	Saints, A Closer Look	Daily Mass		Angelus (9.15 PM)	EWTN Global Showcase		Archbishop Fulton Sheen	Web Of Faith	

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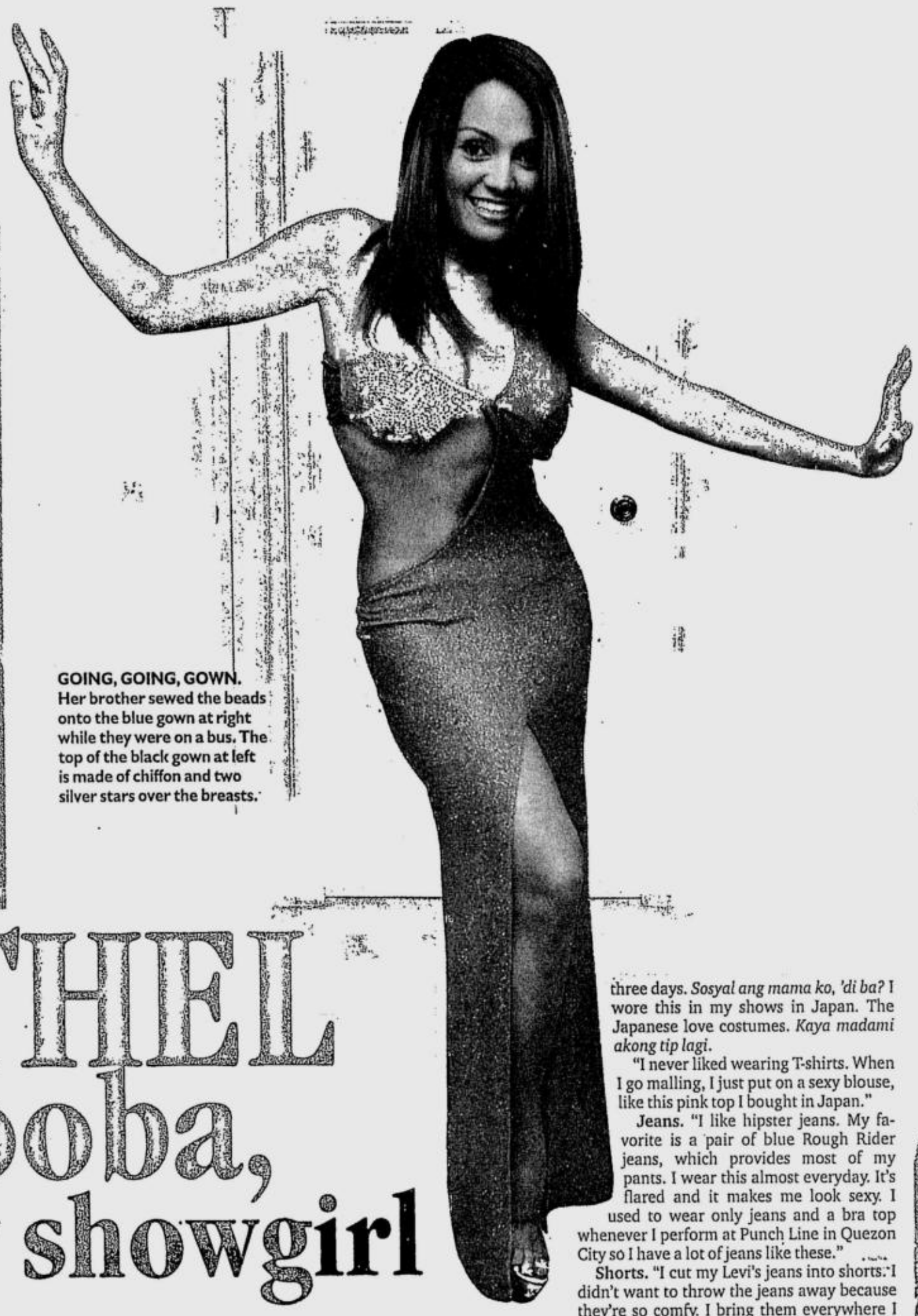


GOING, GOING, GOWN. Her brother sewed the beads onto the blue gown at right while they were on a bus. The top of the black gown at left is made of chiffon and two silver stars over the breasts.

BRAXTON LOOK. Her white gown is similar to the one Toni Braxton wore on the "Unbreak My Heart" video.

ETHEL Booba, crazy showgirl

By Marinel R. Cruz
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

"I LOVE the color pink," says Ethel Booba, the fast-rising singer, comedian and television host. "It's girly and sexy at the same time. That's my personality. It also means that, for me to love pink at my age, I'm *luka-loka* [crazy]."

The sexy Ethel first titillated TV audiences in her 12-week stint in the singing contest "Sing-Galing" on ABC 5. "People started noticing me on that show," she says. "I designed all the gowns I wore in the contest. The first one was a simple beige dress. As the show went on, my clothes became sexier and sexier.

"On my 12th week, I wore a really, really sexy black dress. *Nagka*-issue *pa dahil diyan*. The production people didn't want me to wear it because the upper garment was only made of chiffon and only two small silver stars covered the nipples."

Ethel now co-hosts the reality TV show "Extra Challenge" on GMA 7.

"As 'Extra Challenge' co-host, I get to travel a lot for free," she says. "I also learn about the culture of each country we visit. But the best thing about it is that I get to buy a lot of clothes when I travel: I love to shop, especially in Thailand where the clothes are really cheap."

INQUIRER Entertainment talks to Ethel a few days before she goes with the "Extra Challenge" crew to Canada. The interview takes place in the Quezon City condominium unit that she shares with cager-boyfriend Alex Crisano. She playfully poses for the camera, even showing the color of the thong she is wearing.

Gowns. "I design most of my gowns. I have them made by a *modista* in a shop in Novaliches. I designed the gowns I wore in 'Sing-Galing.' The blue-beaded gown is memorable. While we were traveling from Novaliches to our house, my brother was sewing the beads onto the gown. I told him to hurry because I had to wear it to the contest the next day.

"My first gown for 'Sing-Galing' was a simple beige dress. I also wore a gown similar to the one Toni Braxton wore on her 'Unbreak My Heart' video. On my 12th week, the production people didn't want me to wear a black chiffon dress I brought to the show because they found it too revealing. But I didn't bring any other gown so they somehow hid it from the cameras.

"I'm very creative. This top and skirt is inspired by Shakira's costume. The skirt's slit is so high my panties are exposed when I dance. I wore this with a pair of boots."

Tops. "I had these beaded bra tops made because I used to work as a showgirl. I found out about this from actress Angela Velez. My mother made me an orange bra-and-skirt pair, with a belt and skirt. She made them all for three days. *Sosyal ang mama ko, 'di ba?* I wore this in my shows in Japan. The Japanese love costumes. *Kaya madami akong tip lagi*.

"I never liked wearing T-shirts. When I go malling, I just put on a sexy blouse, like this pink top I bought in Japan."

Jeans. "I like hipster jeans. My favorite is a pair of blue Rough Rider jeans, which provides most of my pants. I wear this almost everyday. It's flared and it makes me look sexy. I used to wear only jeans and a bra top whenever I perform at Punch Line in Quezon City so I have a lot of jeans like these."

Shorts. "I cut my Levi's jeans into shorts. I didn't want to throw the jeans away because they're so comfy. I bring them everywhere I go. I also have those [super short shorts] that I wore in Thailand last June. I wore them on the street, and people were really looking!"

Skirt. "Phoemela [Baranda, her former 'Extra Challenge' co-host] also bought a skirt like this white mini-skirt from Thailand. I miss Phoemela already. She told me that if I decided to wear this on one of our gimmick nights, I should send her a text message first, or we might look like band members."

Jackets. "This pink cotton jacket is a gift from Alex. We were just dating when he bought me this at a shop in Greenbelt. I love it and I bring it wherever I go.

"My favorite denim jacket was stolen. I brought it along when I appeared on 'S-Files'. The next day, Alex bought me a new one."

Bags. "These two Guess shoulder bags worth P7,000 were all I got from 'Extra Challenge' for doing the bungee jump in Thailand. They said I would have enough money to buy the entire Duty Free Shop. But when we came back to Manila, all I got were these bags. *Kaloka!*

"I bring the floral abaca bag to the beach, but when I fly abroad, I use my Louis Vuitton travel bags. I worked hard for these. I also have a Luis Vuitton shoulder bag, which I bought in Japan. I hardly use it because it's the first Louis Vuitton bag I bought."

Accessories. "I bought one set of silver jewelry in Hong Kong. I had been looking for a silver-studded bracelet for a long time and I found it there. I also bought a Dior bracelet in Malaysia.

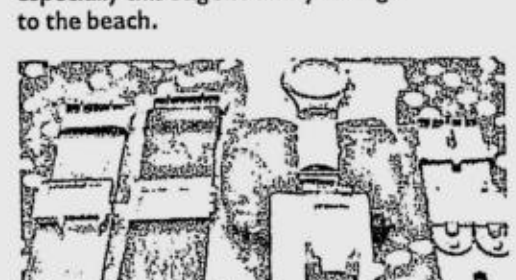
"I keep all my gold jewelry pieces in a different bag. I really take care of them.

"I have two Technomarine watches. One is worth P100,000. It's so precious to me that I've not worn it since I bought it. People from Omega gave me a watch when I sang in one of their parties. People said I forced the Omega people to give it to me. That's not true."

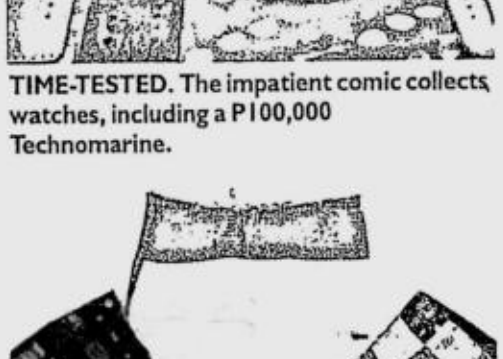
Shoes. "I'm short so I wear high heels. I'm used to it now. Even my rubber shoes are high-heeled.

"My current favorite shoes are the white wedges I bought recently. I like the style so much that I also have pairs in black and pink."

PINK IS PRETTY. She loves things pink, especially this bag she always brings to the beach.



TIME-TESTED. The impatient comic collects watches, including a P100,000 Technomarine.



MINIMALIST. She likes mini skirts that make her every move a show-stopper.

"GIRLY and sexy" is how she describes herself.

MADE BY MOM. Her mother created the barely-there orange ensemble, which she wore in shows in Japan.

TALL ORDER. To make up for her lack of height, even her rubber shoes have high heels.

OUT OF THE CLOSET

BED TIME. She moved in with Ginebra cager Alex Crisano three months ago.

Reeve makes stem cell appeal from beyond

LOS ANGELES—Paralyzed "Superman" star Christopher Reeve, who died earlier this month, made an appeal from beyond the grave Friday for voters to support human embryonic stem cell research.

In a public service advertisement recorded about a week before his death, the wheelchair-bound movie star urged Californians to back the controversial research when they vote in a referendum on Nov. 2.

"Stem cells have already cured paralysis in animals," Reeve said in the television spot that began airing 11 days ahead of the US general election in which voters will also decide on local and state ballot initiatives.

"Stem cells are the future of medicine. Please support Proposition 71 and stand up for those who can't," he said, referring to the California ballot initiative backed by the state's Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Reeve died of heart failure on Oct. 10 at the age of 52, nine years after being paralyzed by a spinal injury sustained in a horse riding accident.

The call came a day after the actor's grieving widow Dana Reeve appeared with Democratic presidential hopeful John Kerry at a campaign rally to support his stance against President George W. Bush's "ban" on embryonic stem-cell research.

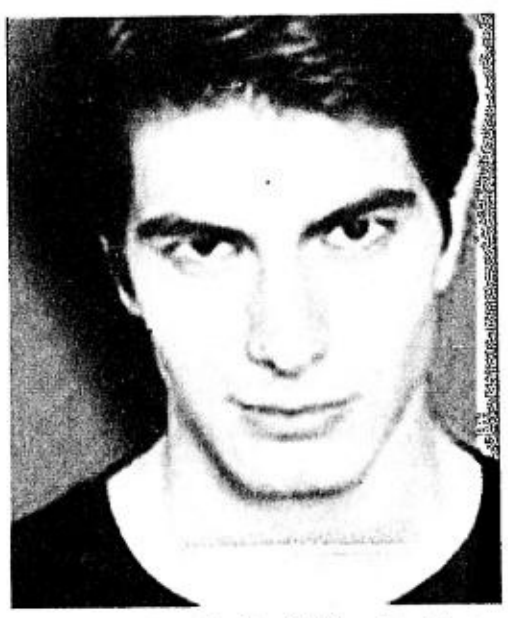
In 2001, Bush prohibited the use of federal tax money in research on new stem cell lines, prompting criticism from the scientific community.

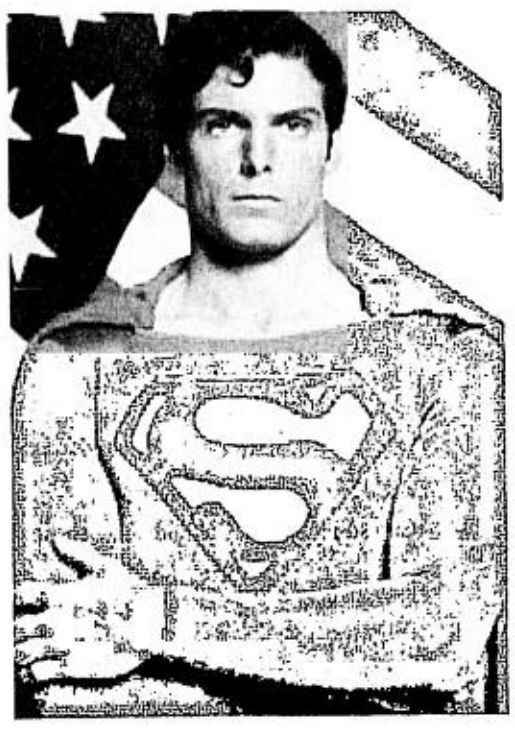
California's Proposition 71 is an initiative under which $3 billion of state funds would be used to fund embryonic stem cell research.

The controversial ballot initiative would allow state taxpayers' money to be used to underwrite 10 years of research aimed at developing cures for Alzheimer's disease, spinal injuries and other illnesses.

Stem cell research has become a major issue in the presidential race and Schwarzenegger this week broke ranks with his Republican Party and backed California's stem cell research bid. *AFP*

PARALYZED Reeve in 2003





OLD, NEW. Brandon Routh (above) will put on the cape and tights worn by a young Christopher Reeve.

Little-known actor is new 'man of steel'

LOS ANGELES—Little-known American actor Brandon Routh has been chosen to put on the cloak of the "man of steel" in a Hollywood revival of its money-spinning "Superman" movies, studio officials said last week.

SHOW TIME

The 25-year-old Routh was signed to star in the reincarnation of "Superman," due to hit screens in 2006, following an exhaustive search for an actor to fill the role made famous by Christopher Reeve, who died earlier this month *(related story on this page)*.

Hollywood's latest heartthrob superhero was picked after a hunt for a lead actor that spanned the United States, Britain, Canada and Australia.

The Warner Bros. movie will be directed by Bryan Singer, who also made the hit comic-book hero "X-Men" movies.

The new movie will begin shooting in Australia early next year, according to a studio source.

The superhero in cape and tights will be reborn in the new movie that will tell of his arrival on earth as a baby after his father, Jor-El from the planet Krypton, sends his son to Earth to escape an advancing army of baddies.

The young man is raised in a small town as Clark Kent, who grows up and moves to the city of Metropolis, where he becomes a reporter and falls in love with co-worker Lois Lane.

The 1.88-meter (6-foot-2) Routh, who hails from the midwestern state of Iowa, made his acting debut in the 1999 television series "Odd Man Out" and has played a guest role on the hit sitcom "Will and Grace.

Routh has only acted in one other feature film, a dramatic thriller called "Deadly," which is due for release later this year.

Superman first hit the big screen when Reeve starred in the 1978 movie that also featured Margot Kidder as Lois Lane, Marlon Brando as the superhero's father, and Gene Hackman as his evil nemesis Lex Luthor.

Reeve, who became an international star with the huge success of the movie, reprised his high-flying role in two hit sequels, "Superman II" in 1980 and "Superman III" in 1983. *AFP*

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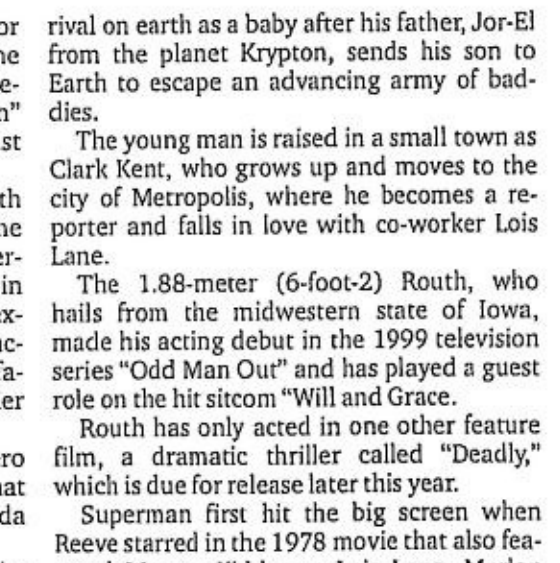
AMIEL SAIQUE CONSUMO, Pasay City (8 y.o.)
MIKO MAPGU, Ermita, Manila (5 y.o.)

Robinsons Movieworld
GALLERIA
GERIK TAN, San Juan (7 y.o.)
MICHELLE A. RAZAL
TONI ROSE SARCIDA, Pasig City (7 y.o.)
MARK A. RAZAL
JAY JAY PACHECO, Meycuayan Bulacan (7 y.o.)



OPENS OCTOBER 27
MTRCB RATING G ALL AGES ADMITTED
BEFORE THEY BECAME BATMAN, SUPERMAN AND SPIDERMAN, THEY WERE THE SUPERBABIES.
SUPERBABIES BABY GENIUSES 2

Roxie finds herself and a new image

By Kathryn Fatima Reyes

AN IDENTITY crisis is common among teeners. Fortunately for Roxie, that phase in her life is over. Now at 19, Roxie thinks she has finally found who she really is both as an artist and as a person.

Roxie is short for Roxanne Barcelo of GMA 7's "Click" fame. People who knew her from her "Kahit Kailan" days on GMA would be surprised to see the new Roxie, who changed her image for the launch of her first album, "Roxie," from Universal Records.

She says she changed her name to Roxie because she thinks people who call her by her nickname would feel closer to her. "It is also easier to remember," she says. "It's hip, it's cool."

"The Roxie that you see now is really who I am in real life, fun, a bit boyish but still a girl," the new young woman adds.

FORMERLY known as Roxanne Barcelo, the new Roxie is "hip and cool."

SHOW STOPPER

Devastated

Roxie, who was baptized as a Christian only last January, says her former edgy image conflicted with her faith. She believes that her religion is part of her true self.

"Being a Christian helped me change my outlook in life," she says. "And when I say change, I mean as a person, really wholistic change."

Roxie says that after experiencing how "cruel" show business can be, one of the first things she turned to was her faith. "After 'Click,' after I became an actress, I was really shocked. It's not just the Filipino crab mentality, it's also the business itself. The culture is really devastating. I was really devastated."

Roxie, however, refuses to give details about the "cruel" experiences during her early years in show biz. "I don't really want to dwell on that," she says. "I don't want to become known because of a bad thing that somebody did to me. I want to be known for what I can do and not what other people do to me.

"It took me awhile before I could get back on my feet. Now, I understand why God let me experience all those things. The purpose of all those heartaches, all those hurts, all those pains that I experienced was so that I could appreciate the people who would come into my life."

She says these people, who would also help her fulfill her dream, include Universal Records' big boss Bella Tan, and Manila Genesis Entertainment's head, Angeli Pangilinan-Valenciano.

B-day contract

It was on Roxie's 18th birthday when she met Tan for the first time. "My *Ninong* Teddy (Tan's friend) had been pushing me to join Universal, as early as when I was 14 years old and I had just won in the Metropop Star Search, but we never got the chance until after my debut."

"I wasn't even invited," says Bella Tan. "I was a gatecrasher."

When Bella, whom Roxie now fondly calls Mama Bella, saw a video that showed how she started in the entertainment business when she was 8, the recording executive was impressed.

"I was asked to be one of her '18 Treasures' during her debut," recalls Bella. "I gave her a necklace and a contract. I couldn't wait another day to sign her up."

After winning the "Best of the Best" singing contest in the United States, Roxie, who was born in Fairfax, Virginia, did various projects, including hosting and modeling. She was part of ESPN Kids, where she interviewed athletes. She did TV commercials for the

ROXIE/ A39

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3 (DOLBY) RESIDENT EVIL
4 RAISING HELEN

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2 (DOLBY) THE DOLL MASTERS
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2 SHARK TALE
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4 LADDER 49

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SM City Cebu Cinema 5
SM City Pampanga Cinema 3

PUNISHER MTRCB Rating: R13
SM City Davao Cinema 4
SM City Lucena Cinema 1
SM City Cebu Cinema 8

SECRET WINDOW MTRCB Rating: R13
SM City Baguio Cinema 2
SM City Cagayan Cinema 3

THE NOTEBOOK MTRCB Rating: PG13
SM City Dasmariñas Cinema 2

OPEN WATER MTRCB Rating: R 13
SM City Bacoor Cinema 8
SM City Cagayan Cinema 2
SM City Iloilo Cinema 8
SM City Cebu Cinema 6
SM City Davao Cinema 2
SM City Lucena Cinema 2

SHARK TALE MTRCB Rating: G
SM City Bacoor
SM City Cagayan
SM City Manila
SM City Iloilo
SM City Baguio
SM City Lucena
SM City Cebu
SM City Davao

SKY CAPTAIN AND THE WORLD OF TOMORROW MTRCB Rating: PG13
SM City Bacoor Cinema 2
SM City Cebu Cinema 2
SM City Davao Cinema 3

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Gary V for G-Cash

FOR TOTAL performer, devoted family man and loyal Globe subscriber Gary Valenciano, the emotional connection fostered by the person-to-person experience is enhanced by the mobile phone.

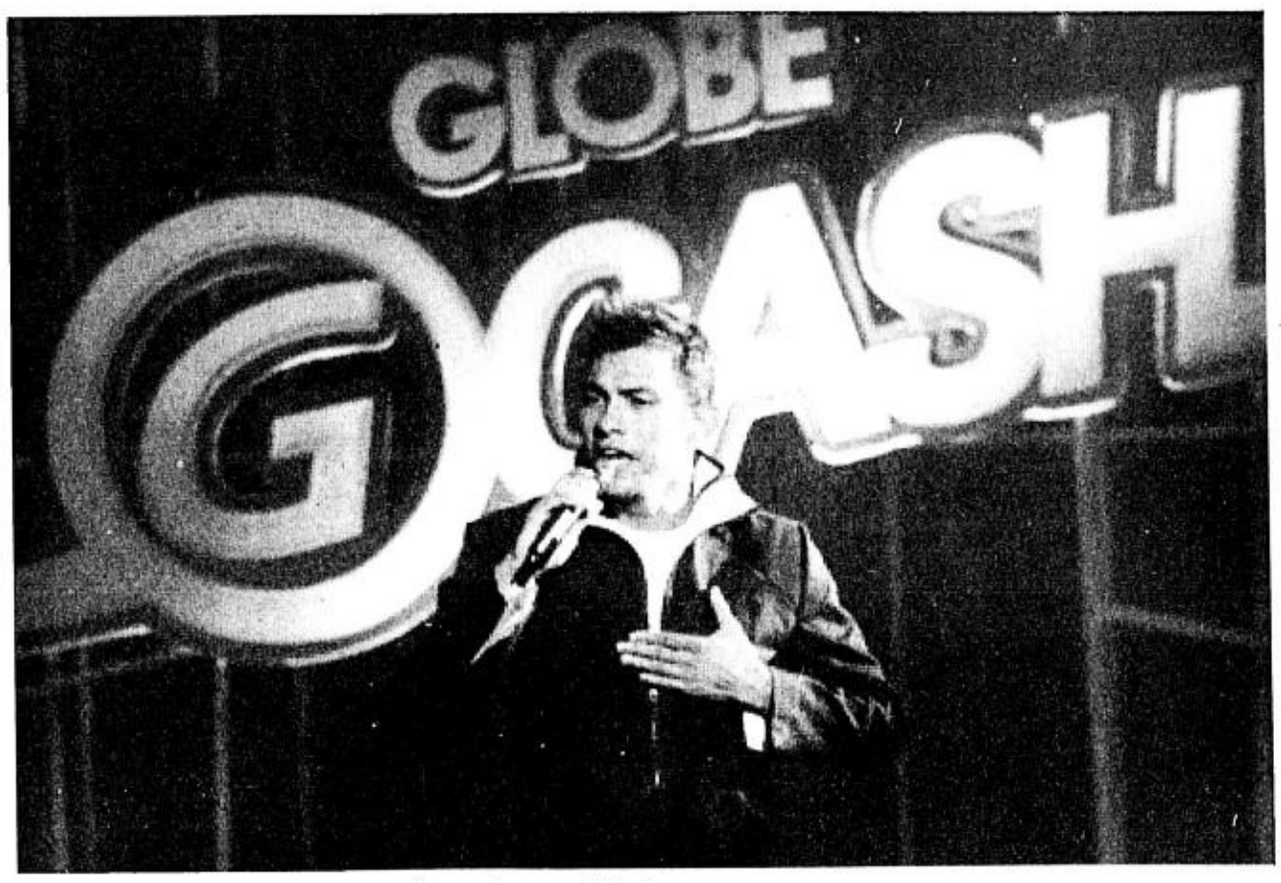
"It has brought the family closer together," Gary V says. "I text certain things that are just between me and the kids. It's nice because you can really text them words of encouragement and they have time to reflect on it."

Loyal Gary V fans here and abroad look forward to meet-and-greet sessions where they can meet him up close. "I spend about an hour with them after [a concert], just to talk, sign autographs, ask them how they are, speaking as one Pinoy to another."

"Making that personal connection is important to Gary. So when Globe approached him about being the spokesperson for G-Cash, Globe's breakthrough person-to-person (P2P) mobile commerce category, he had no second thoughts. "Because I was a Globe user from the start, I felt good that they were asking me to be a part of the G-Cash team. [P2P] isn't just about OFWs or about families, it's for everyone."

"G-Cash enables all Globe and Touch Mobile subscribers to use their phone as a mobile wallet. It facilitates major cash deals such as P2P transactions, purchases, payments, domestic fund transfers and international remittances.

"People using Share-a-Load can now share load *talaga*, as in transfer cash values from one phone's mobile wallet to another," explains Gary. "My son Paolo said, 'Now you can send me money [through my phone]!'"



P2P with Gary V. The singer sings praises to the new Globe feature.

Roxie finds herself and a new image

From page A38

Smithsonian Institution, Gap and JC Penny.

Coming home

When she was 12, she and her family moved back to the Philippines for good. "It was one of the best decisions my family made," says Roxie. "Even if we had an OK life there, we came back here because of our Filipino values. In the US, when you're 18, you're supposed to leave the family home. I guess our attachment, our bond, won't allow that."

Her mother, Rosebell, was an accountant at the World Bank. Her father was a management consultant in a local government agency in Virginia.

After interpreting a song in the the Metropop Star Search in 1998, she went on to become part of GMA 7 programs like the youth show "Click," "SOP," "Sana ay Ikaw na Nga" and "Kahit Kailan."

Her contract with GMA 7 has ended. Now Roxie dreams of being the Britney Spears of the Philippines.

"I'm really grateful to Tita Angeli," says Roxie. "When I approached her for the first time, she accepted me right away. I was told it was the first time that Tita Angeli accepted a talent on the same day without consulting other people. It was her sole decision and I really feel honored to be trusted that much."

Roxie is a Communication Arts senior at Miriam College. "I'm a dean's lister," she quickly replies when asked how she balances show biz and her studies.

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B1

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Gov't warned on using debt to cover deficit

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

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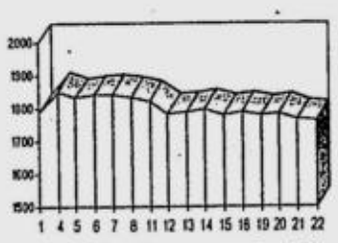
As of 5 p.m., Oct. 22, 2004

¥ 107.59 = $ 1
As of 5 p.m., Oct. 22, 2004

GOLD: $424.20-424.70
per ounce Hong Kong, Oct. 21, 2004

STOCK MARKET

Market awaits third-quarter profit reports



IT LOOKS like the same old lethargic story for the market this week.

But analysts said that as companies release their third-quarter financial results, these would confirm or refute worries over how rising inflation would impact on corporate earnings.

(See stock market report on Page B2)

BPI Trade said in its weekly online report that given the uncertainty in oil prices, investors have chosen to take profits last week and wait for the release of corporate results later this month.

"High oil prices is expected to weigh on economic and corporate revenues and earnings growth. Also, there are concerns that high oil prices would push the cost of raw materials, inflation and interest rates higher," BPI Trade said.

Already mirroring these concerns, fast food giant Jollibee Foods Corp. earlier reported that its third-quarter net income rose by 6 percent to P317 million. It added that net income growth was cut short by the rise in costs and expenses, which were mainly due to higher oil prices.

Succumbing to profit-taking, the benchmark Philippine Stock Exchange composite index lost 19.27 points or 1.08 percent week-on-week to 1,762.14.

"Investors saw little relief from crude oil prices, which remained slightly below the $55-per-barrel mark. The markets continued to worry about tight supplies and strong demand in advance of the winter heating season. Risks in the global oil business are present, especially with the

MARKET/ B6

By Doris C. Dumlao

GOVERNOR Rafael Buenaventura of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said the government's foreign borrowings should not be a substitute to raising taxes in its bid to cover a gaping budget deficit.

While the country was still in a "manageable" debt situation, Buenaventura said continuous reliance on borrowings to finance the budget deficit was not a sustainable option.

"The matter of BSP's preference for tapping the international capital markets if foreign direct investments continue to drop is related to our international reserve management program; it is not an alternative to raising taxes," Buenaventura said.

"Higher tax revenues no doubt should be able to reduce our reliance on both domestic and external borrowing," he said.

But until such time that the government is able to balance the budget, he said the BSP would need to ensure the country had sufficient foreign exchange to pay for the government's maturing external obligations.

"I will be the first one to support a financing mix in favor of the domestic market if we are certain we would have sufficient inflows from exports, income remittances and foreign investments so that we could also achieve our goal of keeping a reasonable level of international reserves and enhance market confidence in the economy," Buenaventura said.

If the reserve level would decline and foreign exchange pressures build up, Buenaventura said the government itself would face the higher cost of debt repayment.

Buenaventura said he was in complete agreement with the President's warning of a fiscal crisis if the Philipines would fail to implement urgent revenue-raising measures.

"The President's bold strategy seems to be paying off as she has generated more support for raising revenues. Our legislators have placed revenue enhancement measures high on their agenda while news coverage have moved up from the business section to the front page, an indication that tax hikes are recognized as pressing imperatives," he said.

The BSP chief said the urgency of addressing the continuing losses of the cash-strapped National Power Corp. was also now well-recognized.

To date, the Philippines is facing a possible credit-rating downgrade due to the slow pace of fiscal reforms.

For one, US-based Moody's Investor Service is seen to downgrade the Philippines' sovereign

GOV'T/ B6

Power to the people remains elusive

(First of a series)

SPECIAL REPORT

By Jerry E. Esplanada

RESIDENTS of far-flung communities would have to wait a little longer for the 21st century to reach them after the government pushed back its rural electrification timetable from 2006 to 2008.

The budget deficit, which is expected to reach P197.8 billion by the end of the year, is to blame for the two-year delay, said the National Electrification Administration.

"Adjustments" to the program that would have brought power to all the communities in the country were made shortly after President Macapagal-Arroyo delivered in July her State of the Nation Address, NEA administrator Edita Bueno said.

"A Cabinet reassessment of (government) targets and plans, the budget deficit and agencies' yearly allocations took place," Bueno told the INQUIRER. "So for NEA, 2006 (the target date for 100-percent barangay electrification) became 2008."

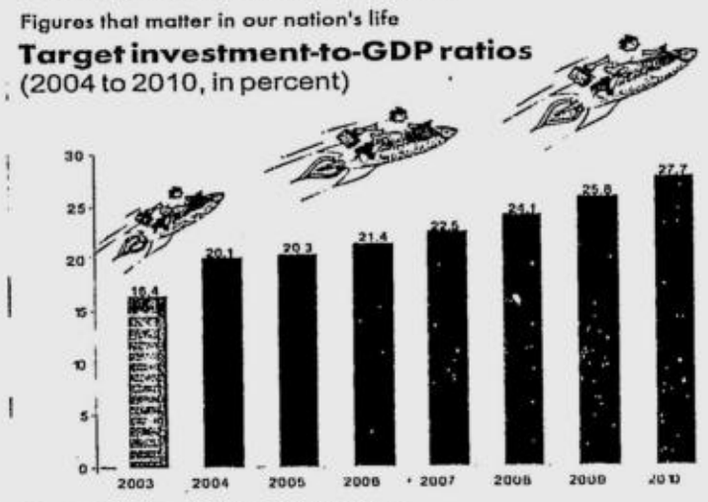
This year, the NEA is "targetting only 600 communities.

POWER/ B9

INQUIRER MONITOR

Figures that matter in our nation's life

Target investment-to-GDP ratios
(2004 to 2010, in percent)



Sources: Philippines' Medium Term Development Plan

THE GOVERNMENT'S "fighting target" is to achieve a 28-percent investments-to-gross domestic product ratio in two years. Investments are expected to pour into road and infrastructure projects, agribusiness, mining, power, information and communications technology, as well as in small and medium enterprises. The government is planning to spend P100 billion for infrastructure yearly.

Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

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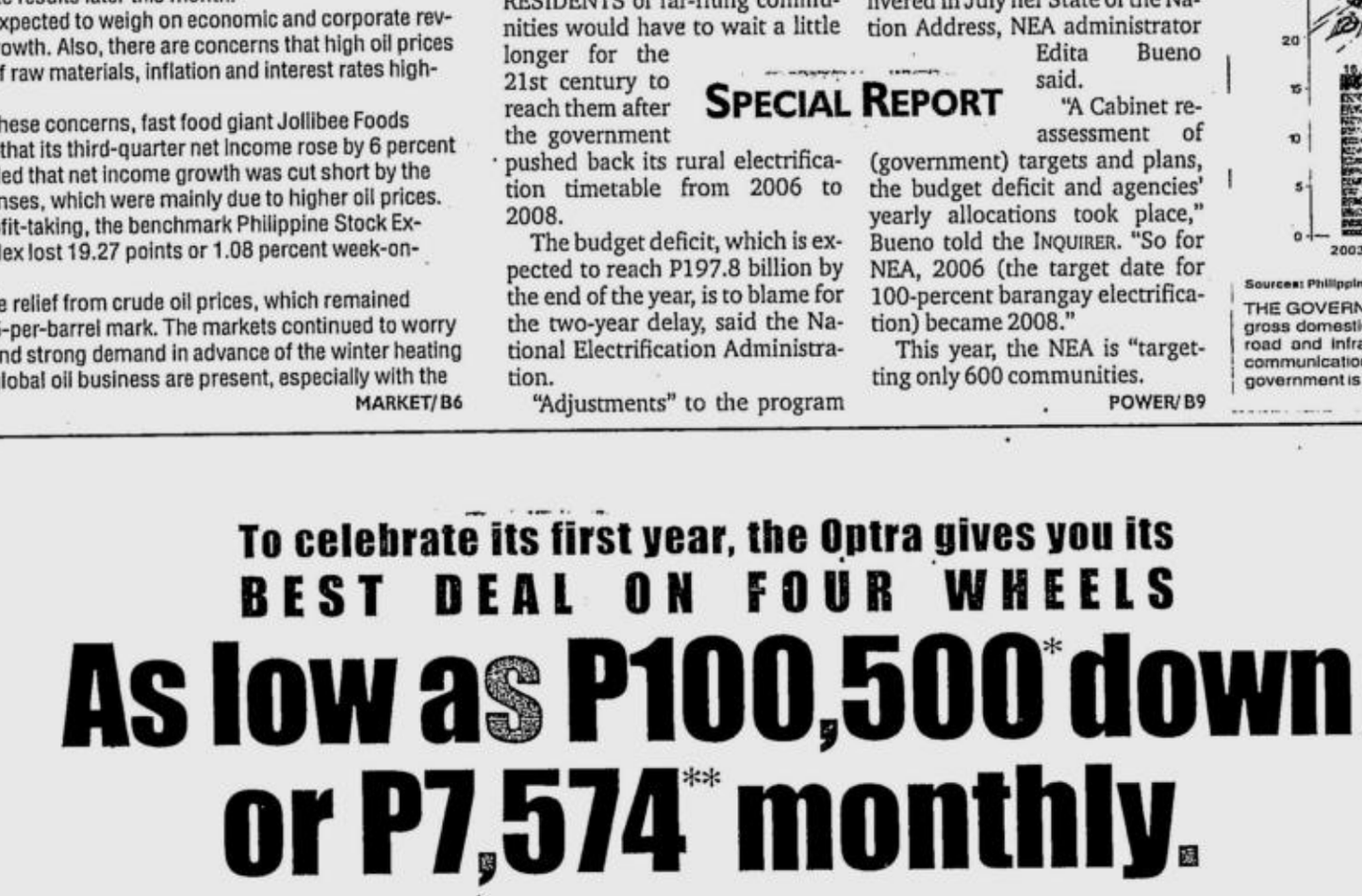

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15%	100,500	49,067	33,601	26,672	19,159	15,412	13,208
20%	134,000	46,078	31,553	25,047	17,992	14,473	12,403
25%	167,500	43,089	29,505	23,423	16,825	13,535	11,599
30%	201,000	40,100	27,457	21,799	15,658	12,597	10,793
35%	234,500	37,108	25,409	20,175	14,491	11,658	9,988
40%	268,000	34,116	23,361	18,549	13,325	10,719	9,184
45%	301,500	31,126	21,314	16,925	12,158	9,781	8,378
50%	335,000	27,916	19,266	15,301	10,992	8,842	7,574

Chevrolet Optra 1.6 LS A/T

SRP P710,000	MONTHS TO PAY					
%DP	DP	12	18	24	36	48	60
15%	106,500	52,102	35,677	28,319	20,343	16,365	14,025
20%	142,000	48,933	33,509	26,599	19,107	15,370	13,172
25%	177,500	45,768	31,338	24,877	17,870	14,375	12,319
30%	213,000	42,597	29,168	23,156	16,634	13,381	11,466
35%	248,500	39,427	26,998	21,435	15,397	12,386	10,613
40%	284,000	36,260	24,829	19,713	14,161	11,391	9,760
45%	319,500	33,092	22,658	17,992	12,924	10,397	8,907
50%	355,000	29,583	20,490	16,271	11,688	9,402	8,054

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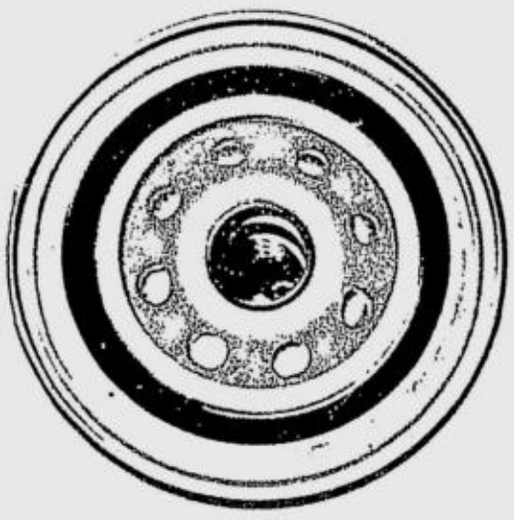

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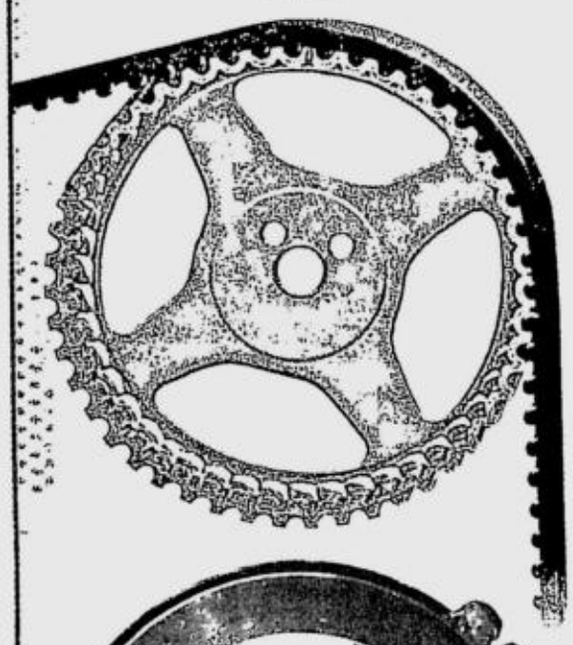

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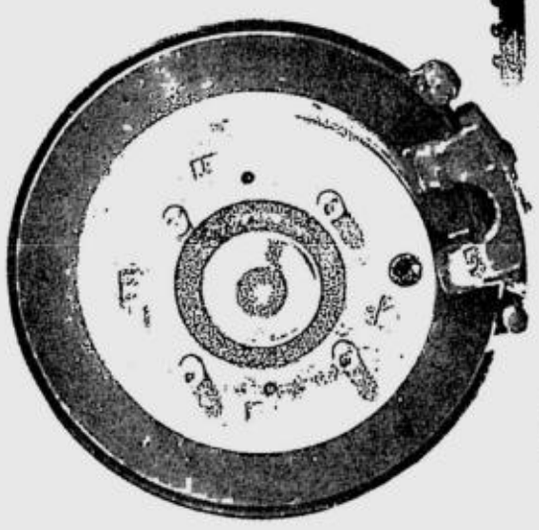

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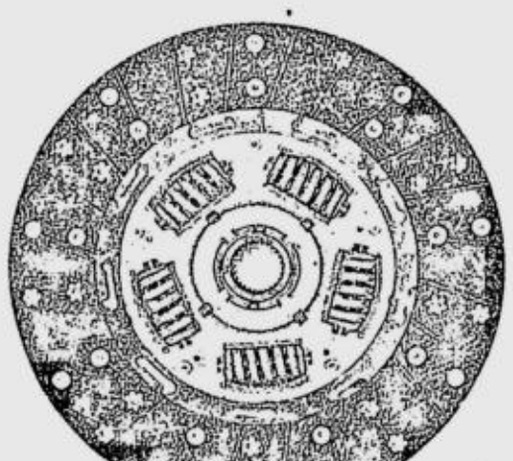

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Air Philippines gets nod to fly to US, Japan, Singapore

By Clarissa S. Batino

AIR Philippines Corp., the low-cost carrier of taipan Lucio Tan, has been designated by Malacañang as an official Philippine carrier to China, Japan, Singapore and the United States.

A designation from the Office of the President is required before a local carrier can mount scheduled flights to an international destination.

Air Philippines must use its designation within a six-month period. Otherwise, it will be revoked, according to an Oct. 8 Palace memorandum to the Civil Aeronautics Board signed by Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita.

Air Philippines president Edilberto Medina said the designation would give the country's third-biggest airline the flexibility to expand its routes. The carrier earlier received the go-ahead to fly to Hong Kong and Thailand.

"This supports our vision to be the preferred low-cost airline in the country," Medina said.

The CAB official, in turn, wrote Foreign Affairs Secretary Alberto Romulo on Oct. 12 to request for a transmittal of Air Philippines' designation to the concerned foreign governments in line with the requirements of the Philippines' air service agreements with those countries.

Air Philippines is to complete a re-fleeting program in November with the arrival of a newly leased 118-seater Boeing 737-200. The company has a fleet of 8 aircraft flying mostly to local destinations.

The low-cost carrier competing with Gokongwei-owned Cebu Air Pacific started a modernization program in October last year to improve operating efficiency with newer airplanes that would allow it to establish new routes for domestic and charter operations.

The Tan-controlled airline, which has an entirely separate corporate structure from Philippine Airlines, is embarking on a re-imaging program to compete more aggressively with other carriers.

Lined up for the airline's prospective routes are Zamboanga-Cebu and Zamboanga-Davao. For its overseas chartered flights, Air Philippines said it wanted to fly to Chengdu and Shenshen in China.

Last July, the company launched twice weekly chartered flights to Guangzhou, China, following the introduction of chartered flights to Kwangju, South Korea, in May.

Air Philippines had rationalized its routes to improve its finances. The idea was to expand frequency to profitable routes and reduce those that do not generate sufficient revenue. For instance, it reduced the Manila-Cebu flights but increased operations from Cebu to other destinations.

The company is now 99-percent owned by the Lucio Tan group. But the companies that own PAL and Air Philippines are different. PAL is also about 95-percent owned by the tobacco tycoon.

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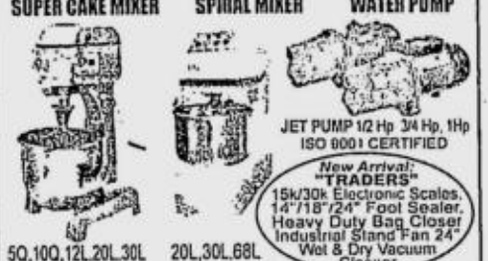

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RP to open air talks with Nepal, Myanmar, India

THE PHILIPPINES is set to open air talks and improve its skies agreement with Nepal, Myanmar and India during the remaining months of the year until early 2005, according to the Civil Aeronautics Board.

CAB Executive Director Tomas Mañalac said the country's air panel was trying to schedule talks with Nepal in November and with Myanmar in December.

"We are also trying to schedule talks with India in the first quarter of next year," Mañalac said in an interview.

The Philippines had concluded successful aviation negotiations with Japan last month. Mañalac said there was a stand-off with the United States as Washington has not given indications on when it was amenable to open air talks to allow the Philippines to improve its air service agreement with the US.

For the meantime, he said the Philippines would like to strengthen its ties with countries in South Asia. He said the South Asia region was a window to other economies like Pakistan and Bangladesh.

"The general direction is to increase entitlements and establish intermediate points to make the flights viable to these countries," Mañalac said. He said the aviation deals with other countries also needed much updating as these had been outdated.

Philippine Airlines stopped servicing routes in India as early as 1954 when then President Magsaysay issued a policy to stop foreign flights in favor of rural development programs.

The Philippines, the CAB said, wanted to take advantage of the growing tourism and information technology industries in India where the population has reached more than a billion.

The number of Indian tourists flying overseas is expected to jump to six million this year, up 30 percent from 2003. Over the next five years, the Madrid-based World Tourism Organization projected that outbound Indian tourists would grow 15 percent a year as their economy improved.

Indian call centers, which are located in Bangalore, Chennai, Mumbai and Gurgaon near New Delhi, currently employ about 160,000. The call center and BPO market in India grew 59 percent to $2.3 billion between 2002 and 2003. Total employment in the industry is expected to reach 600,000 by 2007.

India dominates the South Asian subcontinent and is very near the important

RP/ B5

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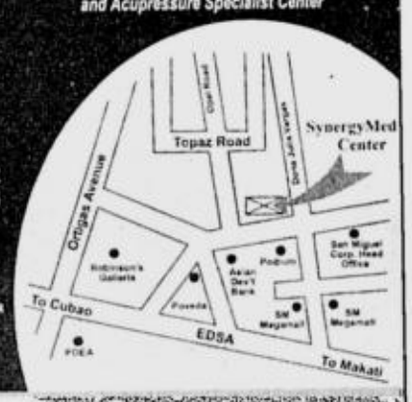

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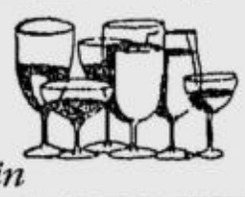
SM corners Ortigas expansion

COCKTALES



Victor C. Agustin

SM HEIRESS Tessie Sy-Coson and the Ortigases of Greenhills have struck up a wide-ranging alliance, making the SM Shoemart retail chain the anchor tenant in the redevelopment of the Ortigases' Virra Mall and C-5 properties.

According to the grapevine, SM Shoemart has agreed to build five of their stand-alone stores—SM Appliances, SM Hardware, SM Furniture, Toy Kingdom, and Watson's, the Hong Kong-based partner apothecary chain--to occupy one-fourth of what is now the Virra Mall section of the Greenhills Shopping Center.

Landlord Ortigas and Co. plans to close down Virra Mall by January after the holiday rush, tear down and rebuild partitions round the clock, and, hopefully, have the retrofitted mall ready by November, in time for next year's Christmas boom.

Over at the C-5 property, SM has agreed to build a two-hectare SM Hypermart out of the 19-hectare Ortigas lot, bounded by the busy C-5 and Ortigas Avenue.

Left empty for decades, the sprawling corner property has now the makings of a strategic commercial destination with the recent completion of a two-level vehicular overpass, magically untangling the gridlock that for years had tortured motorists crawling through that key intersection.

In addition to the SM Hypermart, Ortigas and Co. plans to construct a total of 12 buildings in the C-5 property and pattern the complex after that of the world-famous Chatuchak bargain market of Bangkok, with thousands of sectionalized stalls and booths selling all kinds of goods.

Tax-dodging lawyers

EDSA II lawyers Lorna Kapunan and Mario Luza Bautista, who railed against the crooked financial schemes of the Erap regime, have been snagged in a landmark tax evasion case decided by the Supreme Court, with no less than Edsa II hero Chief Justice Hilario Davide himself writing the decision.

The case involved P80 million in taxes that a corporation 99.991-percent controlled by ex-PAL owner Benigno Toda Jr. had "in bad faith" evaded payment since 1989, the Supreme Court said.

Kapunan and Bautista, who were appointed Toda estate co-administrators after their principal passed away in 1994, fought the Bureau of Internal Revenue all the way to the Supreme Court to contest the higher tax assessment.

Kapunan later pointed to the law firm of Siguion Reyna as having facilitated the 1989 simulated sale of Toda's Cibeles building to a dummy, before the dummy turned around and sold the building on the same day, paying only 5 percent in personal capital gains tax, instead of the 35 percent in corporate tax, for the property sale.

The Supreme Court decision, however,

COCKTALES/ B4

Foreign investments flow to RP 'declining dramatically'—Unctad

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE INFLOW of foreign direct investments to the country "dramatically declined" from an average of $1.3 billion a year between 1992 and 1997 to only $319 million in 2003, according to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

Unctad added that the Philippines continued to receive one of the lowest FDI inflows compared to its Southeast Asian neighbors, particularly Brunei, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Singapore and Thailand are grouped with China as top FDI destinations in Asia with more than $5 billion coming in yearly.

These countries' performance prompted Unctad to observe that FDIs were on the rebound in Southeast Asia from a total of $94 billion in 2002 to $107 billion in 2003.

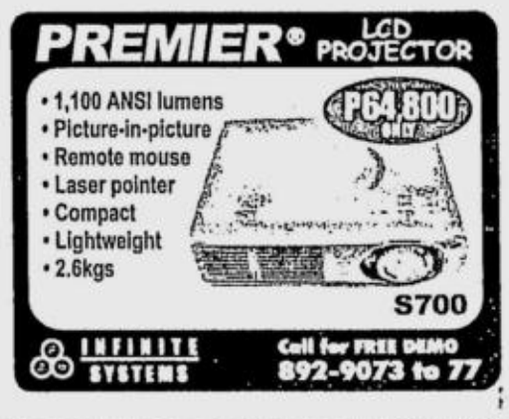
Unctad data also showed that foreign direct investments to the Philippines grew at a relatively flat rate between 1998 and 2002—$1.7 billion to 1.1 billion—compared with those in neighboring countries in the region.

According to the UN body's study on FDI, high-growth economies attracted more FDIs "while countries suffering from political tensions attracted less."

"Out of 55 economies for which data are available, 34 received higher flows than in 2002, and 21 lower inflows," the study said.

Unctad noted that the Asia-Pacific region attracted more FDI than most other regions, thus remaining the biggest recipient of FDI in the developing world. However,

FOREIGN/ B6



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CAP nears deal in $127-M loan

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

PRE-NEED giant College Assurance Plan Philippines Inc. (CAP) has reached an understanding with Worthin Investments, a foreign fund management firm from New York, on a $127-million loan to help plug the local firm's trust fund liabilities, industry sources told the Inquirer.

While the operations of Worthin could not immediately be verified, sources claimed the foreign funder also has an office in Hong Kong.

Sources also said the company will provide the loan to CAP in five installments based on CAP's needs.

"When the money comes (in), that will answer all the doubts (about CAP's ability to cover its trust fund deficit)," a source in the company said.

CAP expects to initially get $27 million from the total loan this month.

CAP is also preparing to file its application with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to increase its capital this week, a key condition in renewing its license to sell education plans. Its dealer's license expired last Sept. 30. At the same time, CAP is also seeking authority from the SEC to sell an additional P1 billion in new education plans after it already exhausted the P5-billion limit in securities it was allowed to sell.

CAP is planning to increase its capital to between P6.2 and P6.3 billion, with the additional shares to be issued to two local property firms that have agreed to invest in the pre-need firm. CAP's existing authorized capital stood at P300 million.

The SEC had ordered CAP to stop selling securities until it has fully complied with the requirements for its application to sell an additional P1 billion worth of pre-need plans.

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It's education, stupid!

NO FREE LUNCH

Cielito F. Habito

SALLY Miranda, a public school principal from my hometown of Los Baños, Laguna, said something that triggered a light bulb in my head the other night. She observed that it was time to make dramatic changes in the way we educate our children, as the kind of education we have been giving them all these years has kept our country backward, our economy poor, and our society deeply divided.

Not necessarily a unique observation, I suppose, but at this particular instance, I was led to ponder over the link between education and the persistent under-performance of our economy in particular, and the difficulties of our country and society in general.

I suddenly thought of the countless arguments I have had with my wife, a passionate education reformer, where I have occasionally expressed some doubt over the educational paradigm shift and classroom innovations she has been vigorously advocating.

I had often reasoned out to her, as economists often do, that if we who went through the "traditional" educational approach have turned out all right, there must be nothing fundamentally wrong with it. In other words, if it ain't broke, don't fix it. It took Ms Miranda to make me suddenly realize that "we" did not refer to all of the Filipino people, and that things are indeed "broke" after all. And it certainly needs a lot of fixing.

So what does education have to do with the economy, that a business and economics column like this merits dealing on the topic? To quote a famous presidential one-liner: plenty.

Widening gaps

We have come up with an educational system that has not only perpetuated gaps in our society; it has widened them. First, children of the moneyed class get to attend the best schools, while the vast majority of Filipino children have to settle for mediocre or sub-standard public education—if they can get into or stay in school at all. And that's because we consistently fail to invest enough in public education. Worse, the share of the total government budget going to education has plummeted in recent years.

Spending per pupil has also been dropping; the government spent P5,119 per pupil in 2000, then went down to P5,074 in 2001 (in real terms, i.e. correcting for inflation). Worst of all, so much of the already insufficient amounts spent have been lost to graft and corruption.

Second, our traditional system inordinately focuses on the verbal/linguistic and logical/mathematical intelligences, and confers superiority only on students strong in these two intelligences—neglecting that there are at least five other intelligences now recognized by education science. And yet, one's success in life and usefulness to society can be based on any of these other intelligences as well (e.g. musical/rhythmic, body/kinesthetic, visual/spatial, interpersonal, intrapersonal). And so, those with the means to have easy access to books and computers--thereby making it easy to sharpen their verbal/linguistic and logical/mathematical intelligences—tend to become the valedictorians and dean's listers who land the best jobs and end up as the more powerful in society. Those weak in these specific intelligences—who may be well-endowed in the other intelligences—are sidelined as the *bobo* and *tanga* in school, and eventually, in society as a whole, ending up as the weak and marginalized.

Job seekers vs. creators

Our schools tend to train our students to look for jobs, rather than create new jobs, after they graduate. They lead them to be content with merely earning income, rather than pursue the higher objective of creating wealth. The common students' dream is to land a job in a well-paying multinational firm, when they should be dreaming of setting up their own enterprise and generating new jobs for others.

Entrepreneurship need not just be inborn; it can be learned. Entrepreneurship values may be imparted as early as grade school; entrepreneurship skills can then be taught in high school and college. And this applies to all students, not just to management majors. We should be re-orienting our education from employment to entrepreneurship. Little wonder, then, that thousands of Filipinos leave the country daily to seek jobs overseas.

Our educational system constantly bombards students with knowledge and information, often neglecting that the ultimate objective of education is to impart wisdom, the capacity to use knowledge to solve problems.

Wisdom vs. knowledge

We can overdo the current emphasis on science and math, and neglect that we need the humanities and liberal arts to develop wisdom. In this age of ICT and the Internet, information and knowledge is literally at one's fingertips. We need not load them into the back-breaking schoolbags of our schoolchildren, nor spend the bulk of time in the classroom transmitting it from the mouth of the teacher and the chalk on the blackboard to the ears and eyes of the children.

And then we test and rate them according to how much of it they had retained—when our concern should be whether they have become better able to solve their own problems and those of the community.

The other essential element that many lament to have waned through time especially in public schools is education in values and attitude, including love of country (*Makabayan*). Solving our country's economic and social problems is as much a matter of ethics and values as it is of efficiency and competitiveness borne out of proficiency in science and technology.

If you think about it, our economy started falling behind our neighbors at about the time our educational system lost its acknowledged superiority in the region and started deteriorating through time to its pitiful state now. It becomes easy, then, to realize that our country can never get out of our current economic instability and backwardness until we fix the root source of the problem. And it's education, stupid!

Comments welcome at chabito@ateneo.edu

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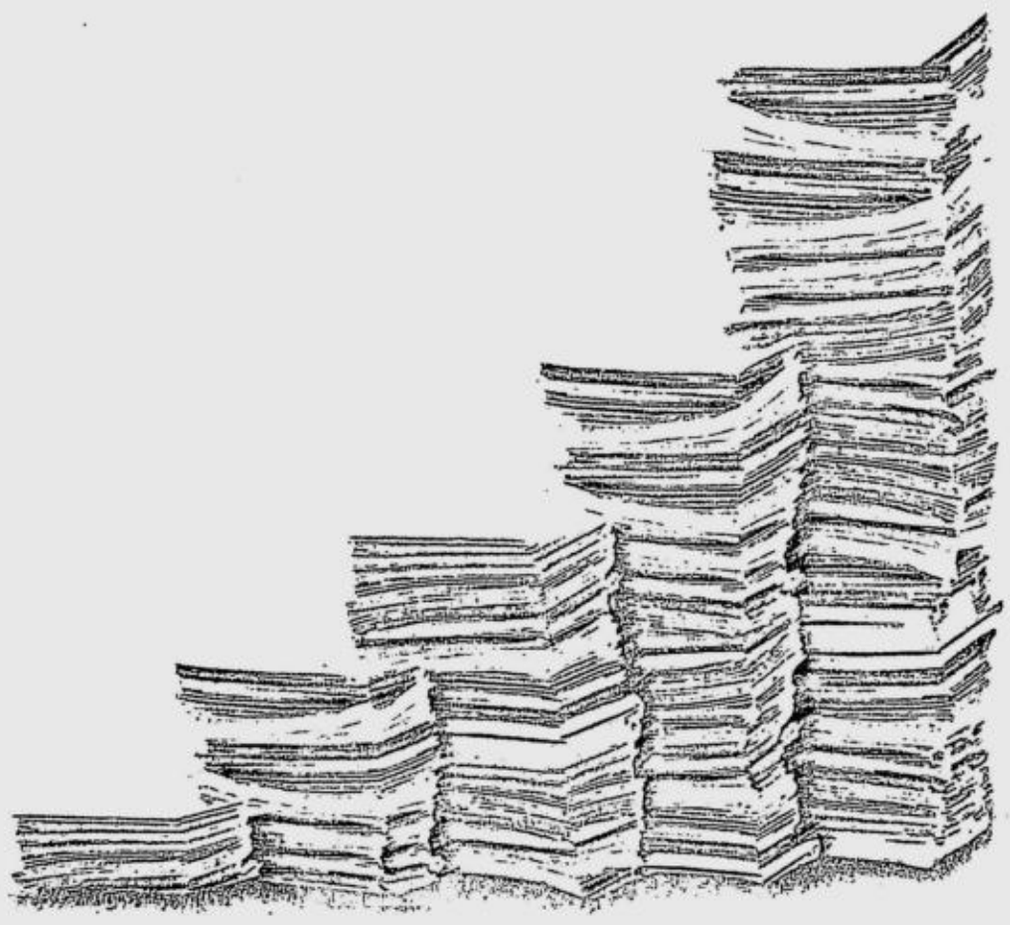

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Cocktales

From page B3

made no mention of the role, if any, of the Siguion Reyna law firm in the tax-evading transaction.

In any case, guess who was counsel for Kapunan-Bautista-Toda in thwarting off the taxmen?

None other than Jose Mario Bunag, who is now Revenue Deputy Commissioner for Legal and Inspection, in charge of running after, we kid you not, corporate tax evaders.

No room at the inn

A HONG Kong finance magazine, The Asset, held a one-day capital markets forum on the Philippines over at the Manila Peninsula Wednesday.

But, unknown to their distinguished panelists who included Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura and SEC Chair Fe Barin, the Hong Kong-based organizers had to seek shelter further down the red light district of Makati, after the Pen bumped off the Hongkongers for lack of rooms.

Apparently it was not only the Pen that was booked solid for the week.

The Mandarin, for instance, had a big Unilever affair, while the Shangri-La was hosting a simultaneous world buffalo congress and a regional banking supervision event.

Even New World Renaissance saw its occupancy rate zoom back to almost the same pre-SARS level of 85 percent, said hotel spokesperson Monique Trinidad-Toda.

The good business last week has apparently even spilled on to the airlines.

According to an eyewitness, PLDT/MPC chair Manuel V. Pangilinan was forced Tuesday afternoon to fly to Manila with the rest of the cattle after Cathay Pacific found him no more available seat in the business class.

Not his brother's keeper

THE INVESTMENT banker-partner of Doña Chito Madrigal-Collantes, Benjamin Bitanga, issued a press statement to distance himself from the father-and-son Mateo and Anthony Bitanga and their various estafa capers that have victimized ex-AIM president Felipe Alfonso, Metrobank, and Corinthian Gardens homeowner Arsenic Laurel.

"I or my affiliated companies have had no business dealings with them nor do I plan to enter into any transaction involving these individuals," the better Bitanga said.

According to the grapevine, those "individuals," unfortunately, happen to be part of the family, Mateo being a brother, although estranged, of Benjamin.

"As I am the only Bitanga, as far as I know, who is a graduate of the Asian Institute of Management; your recent columns that stated that the father of Anthony is a student of AIM has insinuated that I am the one being referred to," Benjamin added.

According to stockbroker Vivian Yuchengco, her former husband, Makati Rep. Teodoro Locsin Jr., and the Philippine consulate in San Francisco also fell victim to a trick pulled by Mateo Bitanga sometime in the early Cory years.

Short takes

- HONG Kong taipan Li Ka-shing has just acquired a general cargo terminal across the much larger Baltic containerized cargo terminal in Poland operated by his "friendly" competitor, Enrique Razon Jr. of ICTSI.
- THE P1.4-billion-a-year Nestlé Philippines media account will be split between Publicis' Zenith Optimedia and WPP Mindshare, following a decision from the Vevey headquarters of the Swiss food giant to drop Universal McCann from handling Nestlé's global media planning and buying account.

Heard through the grapevine

PSE president Francis Lim is trying to convince new SEC Chair Fe Barin to bear down on Smart to publicly list as required by its telecom franchise in the belief that the Smart listing, like the much-anticipated IPO of GMA-7, would perk up and give depth to the local exchange.

In addition to Smart, Lim wants Procter & Gamble, Shell, and other BOI-registered companies to share their government-induced good fortunes with the public and list their respective companies.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com)

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

RP . . .

From page B2

Indian Ocean trade routes. It has more than 300 airports, of which 234 are paved.

Though its population is small and the economy is modest, Nepal is strategically located between China and India. It has 8 of the world's 10 highest peaks, including Mount Everest.

Nepal's population is only 27 million and it only has 46 airports, of which only 9 are paved. *Clarissa S. Batino*

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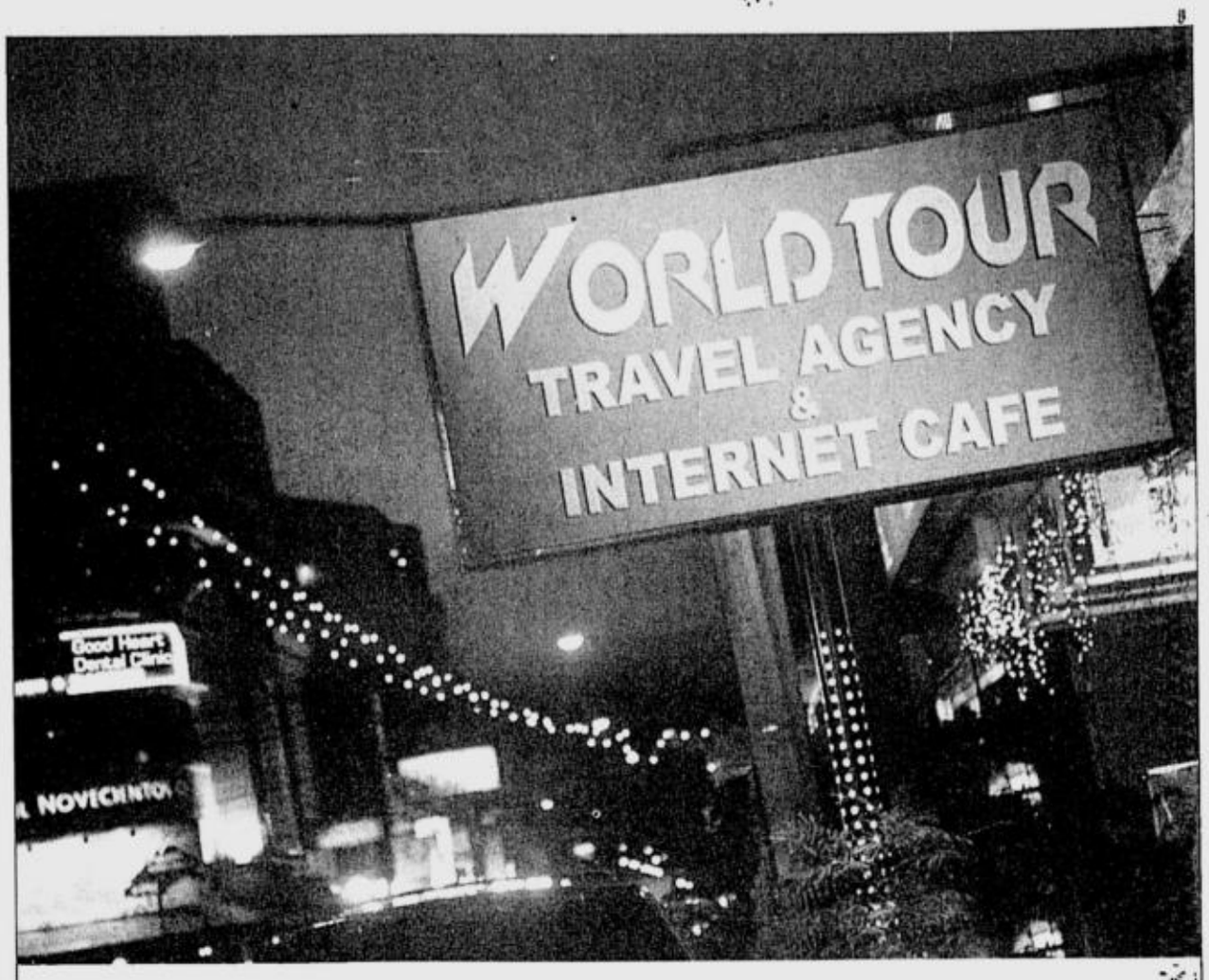

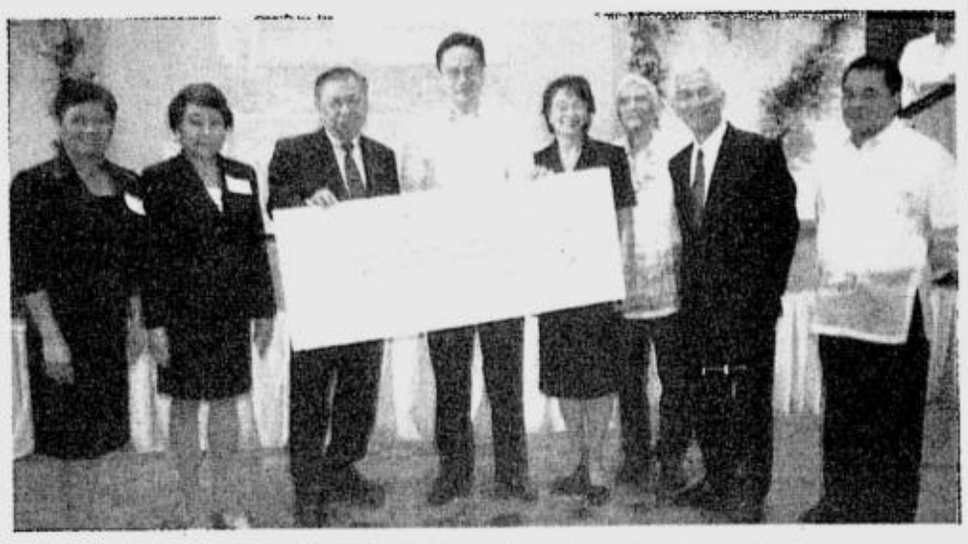

HALL OF FAME AWARDEE

The Rural Green Bank of Caraga, Inc. is the Land Bank of the Philippines Hall of Fame Awardee (Rural Bank category). The Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) recognized 16 rural banks for their active role in countryside development by providing credit assistance to farmers and fisherfolks, cooperatives, small and medium enterprises (SME) and microenterprises.

Shown L-R are: Delia Ladao, First Vice President/LBP Head Northern Mindanao, Gilda Pico, LBP Excutive Vice President/Head Agrarian and Domestic Banking Sector, Alberto Reyes, BSP Deputy Governor, Joseph Omar O. Andaya, Green Bank President and Chairman, Miriam O. Andaya, Ismael E. Andaya, Green Bank Chairman Emeritus, Gary Teves, LBP President and CEO and Willy Maldia, First Vice President/LBP Head, Mindanao Branches Group.

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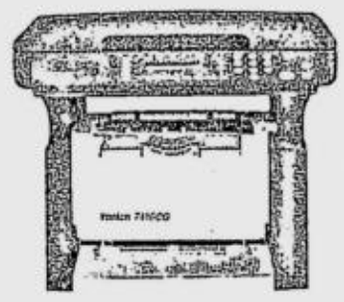

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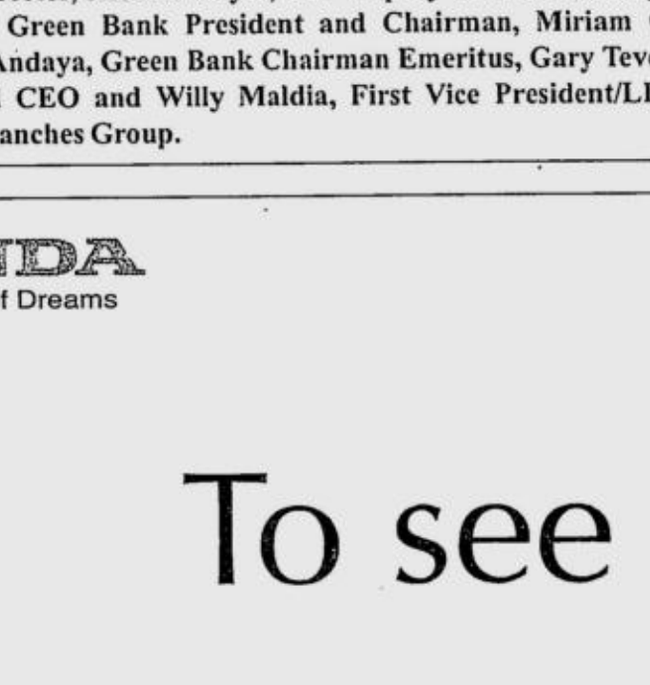
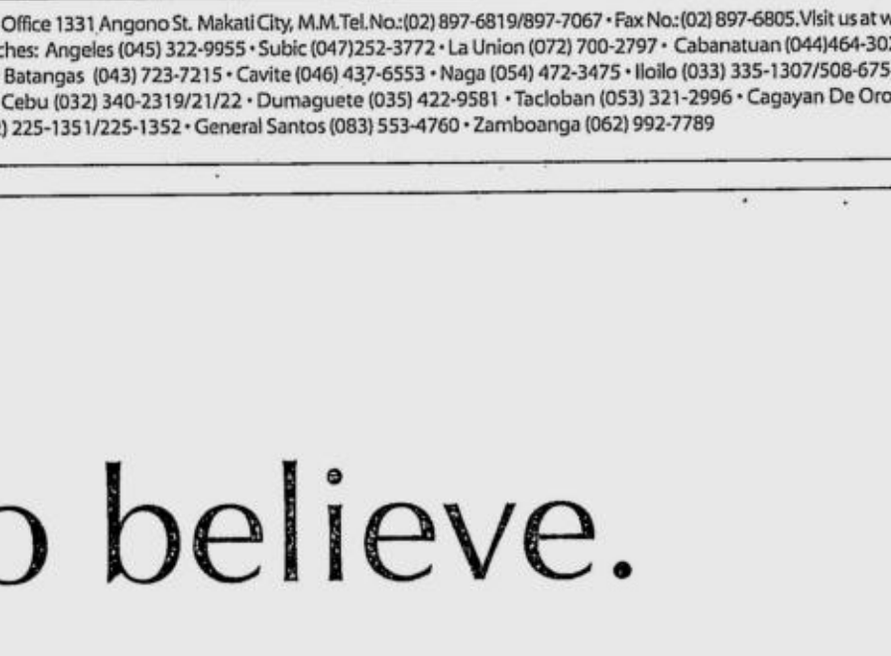


Check for a wider view of the road from all angles, front, side and rear.



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Globe, SingTel in talks on regional joint venture

By Clarissa S. Batino

SINGAPORE Telecom is considering a regional venture with Globe Telecom Inc. in line with plans to develop a bigger mass market base in other countries where the Singaporean firm operates.

Andrew Buay, Globe's chief operating adviser and SingTel's representative to the Globe board, said the company wanted to explore opportunities in the region where Globe's innovations could be adopted and applied.

Globe is joint venture between Ayala Corp. and SingTel, which raised its equity in the company last year to 40 percent, the maximum foreign ownership allowed by law in telecom firms.

"We would like to take the partnership beyond the Philippines. There are various forms of partnerships. It could be equity or non-equity. This does not prevent SingTel and Globe to form equity arrangements," said Buay.

The SingTel official said that like the Auto Load Max, Globe's over-the-air reloading system, the recently launched G-Cash would be an exciting product to launch in SingTel's other markets in Asia.

"Globe is emerging as a center of excellence in the areas of application and in tapping the micro market," said Buay.

Globe claimed that G-Cash was the first-of-its-kind in the country. The program allows a subscriber to buy, pay, receive and transfer G-Cash that one has loaded either through a cellular phone or remittance.

Singtel operates in the Philippines, Singapore, Australia, India, Indonesia, and Thailand. It claims to serve more than 52 million customers in these markets, with the Philippines accounting for a fifth of the total.

A Globe official said a joint venture with SingTel was being discussed but not in mobile phone operations. A regional partnership, he said, would be in the area of research and development.

Buay is optimistic that G-Cash will generate interest in SingTel's other markets. Auto Load Max is also available in other markets such as India, Indonesia and Thailand.

SingTel's investment in Globe was one of its first overseas investments in mobile phone operation.

"Our equity of 40 percent in Globe is the highest stake we have in a company outside Singapore," he said.

The SingTel Group employs more than 19,000 people around the world and has a record turnover of $7 billion for the year ending March 31.

Globe has more than 10 million subscribers. It posted a profit of almost P7 billion in the first half of the year. The company is scheduled to announce its third quarter results on Oct. 28.

Manila Water plans to go public in '05

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

EAST zone water distributor Manila Water Co Inc. (MWCI) is preparing to file its application for a public offering next year.

Industry sources said the company intended to file its application with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) next month.

Optimistic that the business environment will improve next year, MWCI is planning to offer to the public $50 million to $75 million in new and secondary shares in the first half of 2005, sources said.

MWCI president Antonino Aquino said the proceeds of the public offering would be earmarked for the exploration and development of other potential water sources and for the improvement of existing infrastructure support.

Sources said that aside from Angat dam in Bulacan and Nueva Ecija, other potential water sources that could be tapped by MWCI were the Wawa Dam in Rizal and the Laiban Dam in the Quezon province.

Early last month, the International Finance Corp. (IFC), the private investment arm of the World Bank, invested $45 million in MWCI. The Ayala-led consortium has been operating the east Metro Manila concession of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) since 1997.

This brought IFC's investments in MWCI to $75 million (P4.2 billion), broken down as follow: $15 million in equity, $30 million in fresh loan facilities, and a $30 million in equivalent yen loan.

IFC's recent infusion worth $45 million marked its first equity stake in the water sector in East Asia. It effectively gave IFC around 9-percent ownership in the water distribution company, which currently serves more than four million residents in eastern portion of Metro Manila.

Aquino earlier said that the timing of this IFC investment was "very significant."

"While most foreign companies prefer to remain in the sidelines until they see the final results of the May 10 national elections, IFC chose to immediately affirm its confidence in the country's business climate, and in Manila Water as a highly viable company," he added.

MWCI tapped ING and BPI Capital as financial advisers for its planned public offering.

Gov't . . .

From page B1

credit anew unless fresh revenue-boosting measures are passed by Congress by the time its review team arrives next month.

Moody's last downgraded the Philippines' sovereign credit rating to Ba2 in January this year, during which it likewise changed the outlook from "stable" to "negative."

This non-investment grade rating means the issuer has a "substantial" credit risk, particularly as a result of adverse economic change over time, but business or financial alternatives may be available to allow financial commitments to be met.

European credit rating agency Fitch Ratings, which sent a review team last week, has given the country 18 months to pass new tax measures or face a rating downgrade.

Foreign . . .

From page B3

FDI remained concentrated with 10 economies accounting for about 90 percent of all inflows.

The Unctad study covered a survey of 335 of the world's largest transnational corporations from developed, developing, and transition economies and 87 international FDI site-selection experts.

Uctad serves as the focal point within the UN Secretariat for all matters related to FDIs and TNCs. It seeks to further understand the nature of TNCs and their contribution to development and to create an enabling environment for international investment and enterprise development.

It also carries out its work through intergovernmental deliberations, technical assistance activities, seminars, workshops, and conferences.

Market awaits third-quarter . . .

From page B1

political volatility of most of the oil-producing countries. And with the winter season coming up, some commodities analysts are looking at the possibility that oil will hit $60 per barrel. Still others see it going down to $40 per barrel within four to five months," said Jose Vistan of AB Capital Securities.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) earlier said it expected the inflation in October to accelerate to 6.9 to 7.4 percent year-on-year against 6.9 percent in September.

The good news is that if third-quarter income results and the following quarters remained positive, this might attract investors to start accumulating select stocks, BPI Trade said.

Ayala Land Inc. and Globe Telecom are expected to release their earnings on Oct. 28 and 29, respectively. Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. is expected to release its profit performance by Nov. 4.

"The market needs a series of positive news to help turn around sentiment. This week, government reported that the budget deficit for the nine months to September was at P141.9 billion and within the target of P143.3 billion. We view the market correction as an opportunity to accumulate," BPI Trade added.

Analysts said Congress would resume its sessions next week and this would indicate the direction of crucial reforms to plug the country's gaping budget deficit.

"These could provide some short-term relief to investors that have been frustrated by the market's inability to sustain its bullish run-up. It remains to be seen whether earnings can bail the market out of its doldrums. Any rally will be hard to sustain even on the back of strong third-quarter earnings if oil prices continue to move higher," Vistan said. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of October 22, 2004)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	18.5	18.75	18.5	18.75	103,800
Bank of the Phil. Islands	46.5	46.5	45.5	46	102,200
China Banking Corp.	530	530	530	530	1,790
Citystate Savings Bank	16	16	16	16	1,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	42.5	42.5	42.5	42.5	117,300
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.42	0.42	0.41	0.41	780,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	27.5	28	27	27.5	42,600
Security Bank Corp.	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	10,500
Union Bank of the Phil.	23.25	23.25	23.25	23.25	16,000
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	0.87	0.87	0.87	0.87	50,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	2470	2470	2460	2460	30
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.34	1.34	1.34	1.34	579,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	113	113	110	110	1,100
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1645	1645	1645	1645	2,580
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	4,200
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	1.32	1.32	1.2	1.24	29,617,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	1030	1030	1020	1020	4,710
Ipeople Inc.	1.66	1.68	1.66	1.68	26,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	2.14	2.14	2.14	2.14	1,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	2.42	2.42	2.34	2.36	4,590,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	60,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1385	1390	1380	1385	86,590
Ivantage Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	1,330,000
Philweb Corp.	0.013	0.013	0.012	0.013	69,200,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	15.75	16	15.75	15.75	30,100
Manila Electric Co. B	23.75	23.75	23.5	23.75	122,300
Petron Corp.	2.85	2.95	2.85	2.9	2,393,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	120,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	180,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	50,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.36	0.37	0.36	0.37	950,000
Union Cement Corp.	2.34	2.36	2.26	2.3	1,006,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	29	29.5	29	29.5	75,400
Jollibee Foods Corp.	28	28	28	28	286,700
RFM Corp.	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	40,000
San Miguel Corp. A	57	57	56.5	56.5	6,700
San Miguel Corp. B	71.5	71.5	71.5	71.5	135,000
Universal Robina Corp.	10	10	10	10	5,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.29	0.3	0.29	0.3	400,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	27,000,000
Ayala Corp.	6.2	6.3	6.2	6.3	3,506,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	3.5	3.5	3.45	3.45	301,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	1,000,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.36	1.36	18,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	15.75	15.75	15.75	15.75	17,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.58	0.59	0.56	0.57	5,940,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.145	0.145	2,080,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	2.95	3.05	2.85	2.9	15,894,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	2,300,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	4	4	4	4	140,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	26.5	26.5	26.5	26.5	6,400
Global Equities Inc.	0.0675	0.0675	0.0675	0.0675	200,000
Ionics Inc.	1.56	1.6	1.56	1.6	140,000
J.G. Summit Holdings, Inc.	1.98	1.98	1.92	1.98	938,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	150,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	1,000,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	2,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.22	1.24	1.22	1.24	2,788,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.31	0.37	0.3	0.3	530,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.4	0.41	0.39	0.4	111,100,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc.	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.98	35,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.84	0.84	0.84	0.84	10,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	40,000
Uniwide Holdings, Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	20,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Jardine Davies Inc.	22.5	22.5	22.5	22.5	10,100
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.64	1.64	1.62	1.62	30,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.92	0.92	0.9	0.9	190,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	2,300,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.65	0.66	0.65	0.66	3,000,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.75	0.75	3,390,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.64	0.64	0.64	0.64	70,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.3	0.3	730,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr)	20.25	20.25	20.25	20.25	133,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	400
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	100
PLDT 10% Pref Series Bb	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,400
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	23,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.9	7	6.8	6.9	10,478,000
Cityland Development Corp.	1.54	1.54	1.5	1.5	237,000
C&P Homes Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.34	0.35	7,340,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.135	0.135	0.13	0.13	510,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	10,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.34	0.34	10,460,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.08	1.08	7,843,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.205	0.205	0.2	0.205	800,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	480,000
Phil Realty And Holdings	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.045	400,000
SM Development Corp.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	5,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.3	7.3	7.2	7.2	6,226,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co., Inc. A	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	240,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	2,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	4	4.1	3.75	3.85	1,074,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.016	0.017	0.016	0.016	46,600,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	10,500,000
Omico Corp.	0.005	0.0055	0.005	0.005	295,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.46	0.46	0.45	0.46	200,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.52	0.52	0.5	0.5	1,300,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	20,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.013	0.014	0.013	0.014	1,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	36,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0046	0.0046	0.0044	0.0046	75,000,000
Pacifica	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	26,000,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	2.65	2.65	2.6	2.6	53,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.033	0.033	0.032	0.032	3,500,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	1,807,900	19,924,110.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	297,754,800	343,411,805.00
PRO	44,789,000	133,687,890.00
Mining	356,934,000	7,471,450.00
OIL	143,553,000	1,069,300.00
GRAND TOTALS :	844,838,700	505,564,555.00

	AVERAGES
Bank & Fin Svc	491.78 DOWN 0.98
Comm'l & Ind'l	2,775.96 DOWN 0.95
PRO	649.16 DOWN 9.60
Mining	2,018.70 DOWN 15.42
OIL	1.71 UNCH 0.00
SME	100.00 UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	1,105.63 DOWN 5.08
Composite	1,762.14 DOWN 4.46

CURRENCIES

October 22, 2004 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.792519	1.000000	56.2950
Japan	Yen	0.007375	0.009306	0.5239
United Kingdom	Pound	1.448962	1.828300	102.9241
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.101792	0.128441	7.2306
Switzerland	Franc	0.651153	0.821625	46.2534
Canada	Dollar	0.637842	0.804829	45.3078
Singapore	Dollar	0.473768	0.597800	33.6532
Australia	Dollar	0.585057	0.738225	41.5584
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.102227	2.652590	149.3276
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.211333	0.266660	15.0116
Brunei	Dollar	0.472356	0.596019	33.5529
Indonesia	Ruplah	0.000087	0.000110	0.0062
Thailand	Baht	0.019184	0.024207	1.3627
UAE	Dirham	0.215774	0.272264	15.3271
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.261800	71.0330
Argentina	Peso	0.268195	0.338409	19.0507
Brazil	Real	0.278272	0.351124	19.7665
Denmark	Kroner	0.134505	0.169719	9.5543
India	Rupee	0.017338	0.021877	1.2316
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.208585	0.263193	14.8164
Mexico	New Peso	0.069246	0.087374	4.9187
New Zealand	Dollar	0.550017	0.694011	39.0693
South Africa	Rand	0.127257	0.160573	9.0395
Korea	Won	0.000695	0.000877	0.0494
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.023461	0.029603	1.6665

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Baguio Country Club	580,000	-
Calatagan Golf	60,000	-
Camp John Hay	Pls. Call	180,000
Canlubang Golf	-	420,000
Canyon Woods	150,000	-
Capitol Hills	135,000	-
Cebu Country Club	-	1,500,000
Celebrity Sports	150,000	-
Eagleridge A/B*/C**	250,000/300,000*/350,000**	-
Forest Hills A/B*/C**	160,000/250,000*	190,000*/210,000**
Luisita Golf	400,000	-
Manila Golf Corporate	Pls. Call	10,800,000
Manila Golf Individual	Pls. Call	10,800,000
Manila Polo	2,450,000	-
Manila Southwoods A/B*	400,000/700,000*	360,000/620,000*
Makati Sports Club	220,000	185,000
Metropolitan Club A/B*	180,000/200,000*	100,000
Mimosa C2/C3*	220,000	280,000*
Mimosa Golf Ind.	180,000	130,000
Mt. Malarayat A/B*	180,000	200,000*
Orchard A/B*/C**	Pls. Call/400,000*	180,000
Riviera Golf A/B*/C**	120,000/160,000*/200,000**	180,000**
Rockwell Leisure Club	280,000	-
Royale Tagaytay CC	70,000	-
Sherwood A/B*	70,000	80,000*
Spa & Lodge	850,000	520,000
Sta. Elena Golf A/B*	1,400,000/1,600,000*	1,200,000
The Palms Country Club	620,000	-
Tagaytay Country Club	400,000	350,000
Tagaytay Midlands	-	880,000
The Country Club	2,600,000	-
Valle Verde Ind.	140,000	100,000
Valley Golf	-	-
Wack Wack Golf	6,600,000	6,300,000

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Capitol Hills Golf Club	115K	
Canlubang Golf Club		500K
Celebrity Sports Club	145K	120K
Eagleridge Golf Club "A"	220K	
Eagleridge Golf Club "B"	290K	
Eagleridge Golf Club "C"	300K	
Eastridge Golf Club "B"	please call	
Forest Hills Golf Club Ind.	120K	
Manila Golf Club - Ind		11.5M
Manila Polo Club		2.4M
Manila Southwoods "A"	375K	250K
Manila Southwoods "B"	650K	600K
Metropolitan Club		170K
Orchard Golf Club "A"	200K	180K
Orchard Golf Club "B"	please call	250K
Orchard Golf Club "C"		350K
Palm Country Club.	600K all in	
Punta Fuego	450K	
Quezon City Sports Club "B"	145K	
Riviera Golf Club "A"	75K	
Rockwell Club	300K	
Sta. Elena Golf Club "A"	1.5M	
Subic Yacht Club-Ind	120K	
Tagaytay Highlands Golf Club		750K
Tagaytay Midlands	please call	
Valley Golf Club	250K	
Wack Wack Golf Club	6.3M	please call

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Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	1,100,000	1,300,000
Baguio Country Club	530,000	580,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	-	60,000
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	-	70,000
Camp John Hay	-	200,000
Canlubang	450,000	-
Canyon Woods	-	160,000
Capitol Hills	100,000	125,000
Cebu Country Club	1,500,000	1,900,000
Celebrity Sports Club	130,000	150,000
Club Filipino	100,000	120,000
Eagleridge "A"	-	270,000
Eagleridge "B"	-	300,000
Eagleridge "C"	-	330,000
Forest Hills "A"	-	160,000
Forest Hills "B"	-	200,000
Forest Hills "C"	-	220,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	180,000	200,000
Makati Sports Club "B"	-	230,000
Manila Golf (Corporate)	Please Call	-
Manila Golf (Individual)	11,350,000	-
Manila Polo	2,300,000	2,400,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	300,000	380,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	550,000	670,000
Manila Yacht Club	-	350,000
Metroclub "A"	150,000	-
Mimosa (Individual)	-	150,000
Mimosa (Corporate)	260,000	275,000
Mt. Malarayat Gold "C"	-	300,000
Orchard Golf Club "A"	180,000	200,000
Orchard Golf Club "B"	250,000	300,000
Orchard Golf Club "C"	-	450,000
Quezon City Sports Club	-	180,000
Sherwood Hills "B"	-	180,000
Rockwell	-	300,000
Spa & Lodge	500,000	650,000
Sta. Elena "A"	1,150,000	1,500,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)	-	200,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)	-	120,000
Tagaytay Country Club	350,000	400,000
Tagaytay Highlands	750,000	800,000
Tagaytay Midlands	650,000	700,000
Valle Verde (Individual)	120,000	150,000
Valle Verde (Corporate)	-	200,000
Valley Golf	220,000	250,000
Wack-Wack Golf Club	-	6,400,000

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BSP tightens rules on quasi-banking

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE MONETARY Board has slapped stricter requirements on investment houses seeking quasi-banking licenses.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Deputy Governor Alberto Reyes told reporters that the board had approved the new guidelines for granting quasi-banking licenses in line with the General Banking Act (GBA).

Under the newly-approved circular, Reyes said the following new requirements were added to the existing list:

- a minimum capital base of P650 million;
- a capital adequacy ratio of at least 12 percent;
- the appointment of two independent directors. and,
- a rating of at least three for CAMELS, the acronym for the six key factors used in bank examination such as capital adequacy, asset quality, management, earnings, liquidity and sensitivity to market risk.

The BSP, for its part, uses a scale of one to five in its CAMELS rating, with five as the highest.

Quasi-banks are defined as entities engaged in obtaining funds other than deposits from more than 19 creditors for the purpose of relending. These include investment houses and financing companies.

Reyes noted, however, that there was still an existing moratorium on the granting of new quasi-banking licenses and that these new guidelines would apply only to those investment houses already doing trust activities.

"These are for investment houses with trust licenses but without quasi-banking licenses," Reyes said.

The moratorium was imposed in the 1980s in view of the proliferation of problematic quasi-banks at the expense of the investing public.

The issuance of quasi-banking licenses to investment houses doing trust activities is seen to pave the way for better regulation since they will fall under the BSP's jurisdiction.

At present, the BSP monitors only the trust activities of banks and quasi-banks.

The new regulation also clarified that commercial and universal banks are already mandated by the GBA to perform quasi-banking functions and, therefore, they are no longer required to secure authority from the Monetary Board.

HIGH-VALUE PRODUCTS

Garments exports up 5.4%

By Ronnel W. Domingo

GARMENTS and textile exports in September went up 5.4 percent to $237.9 million from year-ago's $225.6 million, as local firms followed through their strategy of focusing on higher-value products.

However, a report from the Garments and Textile Export Board showed that exports in the first nine months declined by 1.45 percent to $2.12 billion, from $2.16 billion in the same period last year.

GTEB executive director Serafin Juliano said total sales of apparel in the United States grew 6 percent in the first half of 2004 from year-ago level.

He said sales from discount retailers and clothing stores grew 9 percent while those from department stores declined 1.4 percent in the comparative periods.

"Since our garments and textile firms produce branded products, the growth in the clothing store retail channel is lifting the country's export performance," he said.

Some of the country's top customers performed well during the period with Levi's retail sales growing by 6 percent, Ann Taylor by 10 percent, JC Penny by 7 percent, Polo Ralph Lauren by 24 percent and Liz Claiborne by 7 percent.

Exports to the US market amounted to $172.9 million or 72.7 percent of total exports in September and $1.5 billion or 70.5 percent in the first nine months. Shipments to the US went up 5 percent in September but went down 5.9 percent in the first three quarters.

Exports to the European Union shot up by 27 percent to $32.8 million in September and 26 percent to $332 million in the first nine months.

Garments shipped to non-quota countries decreased by 15 percent to $24.6 million in September.

₱2.9-B wind power project OKd

THE BOARD of Investments has approved the registration of a P2.9-billion, 30-megawatt wind power project in San Carlos City, Negros Occidental.

"This project supports the government's energy conservation efforts as well as its thrust for energy self-sufficiency," BOI chief and Trade Undersecretary Elmer C. Hernandez said.

"It particularly answers the need of electricity users in Negros Occidental for reliable and environment friendly supply," Hernandez added.

The project's proponent San Carlos Wind Power Corp. is 60-percent Filipino and 40-percent Danish. It is primarily engaged in the business of exploration, development, use and commercialization of indigenous energy sources such as ocean, solar and wind power.

The project was given by the BOI a pioneering status.

SCWPC expects to achieve financial closing for the project in February 2005 and start development work on the site the following April. Equipment orders will be placed by June for testing and commissioning and for the subsequent start of commercial operation in July.

The company expects to fund 75 percent of the project cost with loans to be be secured mostly like from European banks. It is also applying for financing from the Danish government under its Mixed Credit program.

The wind farm is to be located in the barangays of Linubagan and Prosperidad in San Carlos City, 17 kilometers from the city proper.

Between 15 and 20 win turbine generators, each with a capacity of between 1.5 megawatts to 2 MW, would be installed in an area around Mt. Malindog.

The power facility is expected to produce yearly about 63.2 million kilowatthours of power and seen to sell at a range of P3.30 to P5.50 per kWh. *Ronnel W. Domingo*

Amnesty everywhere

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

AMNESTY may be the wrong word. In my pocket dictionary, amnesty is the same as pardon. But, even God does not pardon unless the sinner makes a perfect act of contrition. For Catholics, this means the sinner confesses his sin to the priest, says he is truly sorry, does penance, and promises to sin no more.

When the government grants amnesty to a delinquent taxpayer, what is the deal? Usually, the taxpayer is allowed to clear his delinquency within a short period and all penalties are waived. This is like haggling with the priest to reduce the penance from 10 to only five Hail Marys.

Besides, amnesty hardly works. The Social Security System offered amnesty (it was called condonation) to delinquent employers in 1987 and 1997. Far from cutting down delinquency, amnesty actually increased it. In 1997, there were 237,702 employers with total delinquency of P8.9 billion. By 2002, the delinquent employers rose by 8,298.

Also, amnesty resulted in poor collection efficiency. In 1997, only 17,630 employers, or 7.4 percent of the total, took the bait. The SSS collected P859 million, but waived P464.4 million in penalties. Not counting overhead, the penalties condoned accounted for 54 percent of the amount collected. Any field collector will tell you this was a very expensive way of collecting debts.

As if the SSS has not learned its lesson, amnesty is now being offered to members (many of whom cannot be traced), whose small loans (salary, tuition, and calamity) are hopelessly in arrears. I am not a betting man, but I am prepared to wager a month's meager pension that this amnesty program will be another disaster.

Two years ago, the Pag-IBIG law was amended granting amnesty to homebuyers whose monthly amortizations were in way past due. All penalties would be waived if the delinquent buyer updated his account within two years. As far as I know, the results can best be described as dismal.

The Home Mortgage & Finance Corp. also offered amnesty to delinquent low-cost housing buyers. Considering that HMFC continues to owe the SSS some P30 billion in past due loans, the amnesty program must have been a total flop.

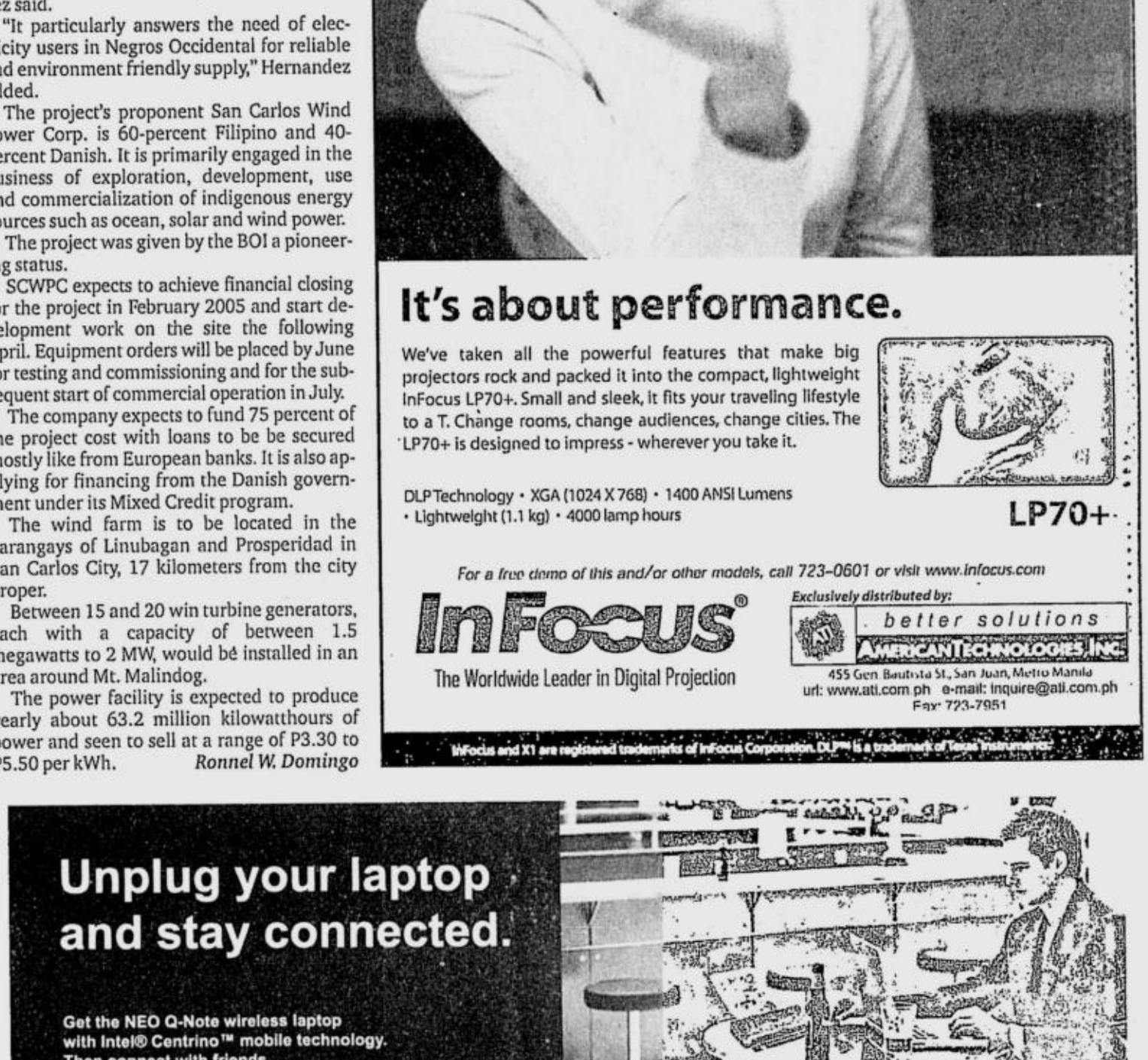
Indeed, why should a delinquent taxpayer or borrower update his account? He holds on to his money, sit tight, and, soon enough, some well-meaning but thoroughly misguided lawmaker will push for another amnesty.

The proposed amnesty for the Oakwood mutineers is an entirely different matter. First, an apology to President Arroyo is completely inadequate. She may be the Commander in Chief, but the crime was committed against the Filipino people. Second, where are the penance and the promise to sin no more? Third, they have to be convicted first, before they can be pardoned, if at all.

The most celebrated mutiny in the British Royal Navy was the one mounted in 1789 in the South Seas by Fletcher Christian, first mate of HMS Bounty. The tyrannical Captain William Bligh and around twenty loyal crewmen were set adrift in an open boat, 3,500 miles from land. Eventually, Bligh was able to report the mutiny to the admiralty. A frigate was dispatched to the South Seas with orders not to return to London until all the mutineers were captured. Most of the mutineers were nabbed in Tahiti. They were brought back to London in chains. Three of the ringleaders were hanged. Fletcher and eight companions fled to uncharted Pitcairn Island. It took almost 20 years after the mutiny to find Pitcairn. Only one survivor was found. He was brought to London in chains, tried and hanged.

There has never been another mutiny in the Royal Navy. While no amnesty was granted to the mutineers on the Bounty, the Royal Navy instituted reforms. The relationship between captain and crew was based on mutual respect. Every seaman got a daily ration of rum, a tradition that is revered to this day.

To put an end to mutiny in the Armed Forces, let us throw the book on the Oakwood mutineers. But, at the same time, let us institute much needed and long overdue reforms. President Arroyo's order to start court martial proceedings against Major General Carlos Garcia is a good start.



MB takes steps to boost bank regulation

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE MONETARY Board has approved a new strategy to boost financial regulation by appointing "imbedded examiners" to supervise specific banks and quasi-banks.

Alberto Reyes, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas deputy governor, said the MB approved the designation of "central points of contacts," or BSP account officers, who would tend to "specific entities."

"(The officers) are expected to know the institutions they are assigned to—the emergency loans, clearing functions, risk exposures and latest developments," Reyes said.

Although the BSP has specific examiners assigned to specific banks at present, Reyes said they were limited to specific functions within the jurisdiction of the BSP's Supervision and Examination Sector.

He said the central point of contact, on the other hand, shall collate the data from the BSP's accounting as well as loan and credits departments.

"That way, examination shall be seamless," Reyes said.

He said the BSP would pick senior officers from its 700-strong roster of examiners as central points of contact.

They would be prioritizing the "monitored" or problem banks, he added.

"(The officers) should keep track of the problems and they should also be involved in resolving the problems with the management," he said.

The bank officers are likewise expected to socialize with the staff of their assigned institutions and be updated on recent developments, including key staff movements or even mergers and acquisitions.

The BSP is likewise asking the 13th Congress to give it four new powers in its charter to better regulate the local financial sector and prevent bank failures.

In a recent report on the proposed changes in its charter, the BSP announced that it was seeking the authority to:

- Undertake risk-based consolidated supervision, which would allow the examination of banks as well as its subsidiaries and affiliates engaged in allied activities;
- Compel banks to infuse additional capital;
- Approve the transfer or acquisition of shares in a bank that would affect a change in the majority ownership; and
- Provide BSP officers immunity from lawsuits.

"These additional powers should allow the BSP to supervise banks and financial institutions more effectively and thus minimize the cost of bank failure," according to the BSP report.

The proposed charter amendments are in line with the "more forceful" strategy advocated by the International Monetary Fund to further strengthen the banking system.

Gov't to go after firms with illegal water facilities

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE DEPARTMENT of Environment and Natural Resources and the National Water Resources Board (NWRB) are set to go after manufacturing companies and establishments with illegal groundwater facilities in Parañaque, Malabon, Caloocan and Muntinlupa.

NWRB Executive Director Ramon Alikpala warned that unregistered commercial establishments and manufacturing firms in these localities are facing stiffer penalties beginning January next year.

"A penalty of as much as P50,000 a day could be slapped if their groundwater facilities will not be registered beginning next year," Alikpala said. "They have until December to fulfill this obligation and the NWRB will closely monitor their water extraction activities."

Although he did not mention the establishments, he indicated that huge malls and manufacturing firms south of Manila were involved.

The government has prohibited the extraction of groundwater in Merville and Sun Valley subdivisions in Parañaque; Catmon and Tangos in Malabon; Talon Tres and Almanza Uno in Muntinlupa; and Manresa, Apolonio, Samson, Mariblo, Baesa, Samson, Barangay 171 and Barangay 173 in Caloocan.

Officials also warned residents that groundwater extracted from these critical areas were no longer safe for drinking. Also, continuous extraction of water may also cause the adjoining areas to collapse.

"Extraction of groundwater in these areas has exceeded the safe levels and therefore the water quality may have deteriorated," Alikpala said.

He added that there was strong indication of the presence of E. Coli bacteria in the groundwater.

Corn Board urges support for grains program

NATIONAL Corn Competitiveness Board (Corn Board) chair Doris Magsaysay-Ho recently rallied livestock and corn industry leaders to support the Grains Highway Program, the strategy that could make the local corn and livestock sectors globally competitive.

Magsaysay-Ho earlier presented the Grains Highway Program to Trade Secretary Cesar Purisima. The program aims to create the needed economies of scale to lower production costs, improve post-harvest facilities to reduce losses, supply the domestic demand for quality corn, support the ambitious growth goals of livestock, and provide a wealth creation model for farmers.

Magsaysay-Ho stressed the need and urgency of import substitution through increased corn productivity amid the growing domestic usage of corn feeds by the livestock sector.

About 66 percent of corn stocks are grown in Mindanao, 28 percent come from Luzon, while the balance are from the Visayas, she said.

Magsaysay-Ho said that at present, corn is loaded mostly in bags making the transport and handling costs very stiff.

Under the grains highway program, bulk handling, similar to the system used in US farms, will utilize containers of 19 to 29 tons each, thereby reducing transport and handling costs, Magsaysay-Ho added.

She also said production of pork has been growing at 4.18 percent, broiler at 4.86 percent, while corn is at a measly 1.26 percent.

The corn board is urging the adoption of farm clustering with sizes ranging from 50 hectares to 150 hectares so that the clusters can avail of shared meat production, processing, refrigeration, packaging and logistics facilities.

The private sector-led Corn Board was formed in 2002 by Agriculture Undersecretary Theresa Cruz-Capellan.

It has been holding consultations and dialogues with the various stakeholders—from producers to corn users—to raise corn productivity and enhance a sustainable growth course for the corn and livestock sectors through what it now calls a "seed to shelf" program.

While the Philippines has been growing corn for several decades, its production could hardly catch up with the requirements of livestock growers, an agriculture official said.

The official cited that yellow corn production for 2001 reached only 4.5 million metric tons as against actual demand of 5.5 million metric tons in 2001.

Officials were forced to import the deficit of 1 million metric tons.

The official said farm productivity improvements through the use of hybrid technology and other market interventions (such as getting into bulk handling), will not just propel the Philippine corn and livestock sectors to global competitiveness but address a more important concern of creating jobs and enhancing the rural economy.

BIR moves to revive tax case vs taipan

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue is trying to revive the P25-billion tax evasion case against tycoon Lucio Tan, believing that the resumption of court hearings will complement the momentum of its latest crackdown on tax cheats.

BIR Commissioner Guillermo Parayno Jr. said the revenue agency would file before the end of the month a motion with the Supreme Court seeking for its immediate decision on the Tan camp's plea questioning the legality of reopening the dismissed tax case.

Lucio Tan's case was dismissed by the Marikina Metropolitan Trial Court (MTC) in 1999.

The Supreme Court recently ordered the tax evasion case to be remanded to the MTC.

Tan's lawyers then filed a motion for reconsideration with the high court.

The Supreme Court has not yet decided on Tan's motion. The MTC is barred to hear the case again without the go signal of the Supreme Court.

"We have to file a motion with the Supreme Court so the hearings on the case can be resumed quickly," Parayno told reporters last week. "We don't want to keep the suspense any longer, and we want the action to start immediately."

Parayno said the BIR is already prepared as it has already gathered its arguments and enough human resource to prosecute the case.

The BIR chief said the revenue agency was able to solicit help from law students in the prosecution of Tan.

Aside from pursuing Tan's case, the BIR plans to file tax evasion cases against 300 companies before the end of the year.

Parayno said the BIR has so far already filed 50 cases.

Lucio Tan's multibillion-peso tax evasion case involves the alleged under-declaration of excise tax, income tax and value-added tax liabilities of his cigarette firm Fortune Tobacco, covering the period 1990 to 1992.

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Gov't told to be careful with electricity bourse

THE GOVERNMENT must be "very careful" in implementing the wholesale electricity spot market (WESM) in Mindanao since supply in the main grid is expected to tighten further in the next few years, an industry executive warned.

Ramon Abaya, Cagayan Electric Light and Power Co. (Cepalco) chair and chief executive, said prices would just shoot up if the electricity bourse would be implemented at a time of tight supply.

"They should open the market only when there's excess capacity on both generation and transmission," he said last Friday. "We have to be careful in implementing the WESM (in Mindanao)."

Mindanao is expected to encounter a capacity shortfall by 2006. However, the main grid is now experiencing a supply-and-demand gap due to an imbalance in the location of generation facilities and the actual demand.

While most Mindanao power facilities are located in the northern part of the region, much of the demand comes from high-growth areas like Davao and General Santos in the south.

Some transmission bottlenecks in Mindanao also prevent the efficient delivery of power from the northern part of the region to its southern part, further magnifying the supply problem in the area.

Citing these developments, Abaya said extreme caution must be taken in implementing the WESM in Mindanao.

The government has announced that it would prepare a separate WESM blueprint for Mindanao, considering the region's unique situation.

In Luzon and the Visayas, the Philippine Electricity Market Corp. (PEMC) is sticking to its June 2005 and January 2006 targets for market trials.

But the reported scarcity of power supply in the Visayas is also seen to compromise the implementation of the electricity bourse in the region.

Lasse Holopainen, PEMC president, said in an earlier interview that spot market trading in the Visayas grid could only take place once supply there exceeds demand, or at least gets to a "comfortable" enough level.

According to data from the National Power Corp., the Visayas grid needs an additional 900 megawatts (MW) of capacity from 2008 to 2014.

But Holopainen said market simulations could still take place in the Visayas even with the present available capacity, but only if some WESM rules were to be modified.

"We can tweak WESM rules so that it can be a more managed market," he said. "But we're hopeful that (the Visayas trading) can be operated under current rules."

He declined to peg a specific deadline for actual commercial operations in the Visayas, saying that much work would have to be done to meet existing targets.

For the Luzon grid, market trials should start by June next year, with actual commercial operations—or trading involving monetary transactions—to take place six months after that.

Abigail L. Ho

Mindanao power firm braces for looming supply shortage

By Abigail L. Ho

IN ANTICIPATION of a power supply shortage in Mindanao, the Cagayan Electric Power and Light Co. (Cepalco), through its generation affiliate, will undertake projects to augment its present capacity.

Ramon Abaya, Cepalco chair and chief executive, on Friday said that the capacity of the firm's 19-megawatt Mindanao Energy coal-fired power plant would be increased to between 40 MW and 42 MW to address the projected 2006 capacity shortfall in Mindanao.

He said it would take around nine months for the new capacity to come on stream. The plant, with its boosted capacity, should be operational by mid-2006.

"(The availability of the new additional capacity) will depend on when we'll get approval of the rates from the Energy Regulatory Commission," he said.

The bilateral power purchase agreement between the plant and its offtaker, Cepalco, has yet to be submitted to the ERC for approval.

Abaya said this should be filed after December.

Apart from the planned capacity addition for the coal-fired power facility, he said the power distributor was also "seriously" looking at developing an 8-MW hydropower facility, in addition to the 7-MW Bubunawan hydropower plant of which Cepalco is a major shareholder.

He said talks were already ongoing with a potential co-developer, a Manila-based entity which he declined to name.

Other possible projects include a bagasse plant and a wastewater facility, both within Cepalco's franchise area in Cagayan.

For the bagasse facility, Abaya said a major sugar mill based in Cagayan would have to be convinced to co-develop the project.

"But we will have to run our own lines if we get that plant on stream," he said.

The wastewater facility was also being studied for possible co-development with a food processing firm in the area, he said.

Cepalco is now operating a $5.4-million solar photovoltaic (PV) power plant to be run in tandem with the Bubunawan hydroelectric power plant, the first and biggest such project in the developing world.

The 950-kilowatt solar power facility is the largest grid-connected solar power plant in Southeast Asia.

Its conjunctive operation with the Bubunawan facility is also the first of its kind in the world.

Using the two power plants in tandem will allow Cepalco to fully utilize its solar PV plant for daytime peak demand while giving it the chance to maximize the use of its hydropower facility.

To bankroll the construction of the solar PV power plant, Cepalco acquired a $4-million loan from the International Finance Corp.'s Global Environment Fund.

This loan would be converted into a grant after five years, provided that Cepalco fulfilled some IFC-set conditions.

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From page B1

"In the past that used to be more or less 1,000," Bueno said.

Still without electricity

In an NEA report dated June 30, 3,710 of the country's 41,945 barangay units are still without electricity.

Funding constraints has left the agency with no choice but to energize only 200 barangays in 2005, and again in 2006.

Like the National Power Corp., the NEA belongs to the list of financially-troubled state-owned and controlled firms.

Bueno asserted that "there's really a fiscal crisis."

According to Bueno, the crisis is already being felt by the NEA and other members of the so-called 'energy family' like Napocor and the Philippine National Oil Corp.

Power crisis

Between P1.2 million and P1.5 million is needed to provide electricity to each barangay.

In her address, the President had promised to step up investments in infrastructure, particularly on the energy, in the face of a power crisis expected within the next few years.

Even earlier, the President during her pre-inaugural speech also vowed to provide power and water to every part of the archipelago.

Between 2001 and 2003, the Arroyo administration lighted up 4,159 communities, bringing to 37,748 the total number of energized barangay units nationwide.

Ms Arroyo's predecessors scored as follows: Joseph Estrada, 3,035 communities from 1998 to 2000; Fidel Ramos 3,335 communities from 1992 to 1998; and Corazon Aquino 2,844 communities from 1986 to 1992.

But starting this year, the NEA "will be getting less subsidies," Bueno said. "For 2004, they're down to P320 million.

The subsidy in 2005, as well as in 2006, will be trimmed down further to P260 million.

Three lamps

Rural electrification actually began on Aug. 4, 1969 with the creation of the NEA under Republic Act 6038.

That year, only 22.9 percent of households nationwide had electricity. About 62 percent of those homes were in the cities. In the rural areas, only 5.8 percent of homes were electrified.

Actually, the nation experienced its first taste of power in 1890, when three lamps where installed on one of Manila's main roads. In 1895, the country's first power station was inaugurated.

From 1890 to the late 1960s, power generation and distribution were largely controlled by private entities. For the most part, government was regulating electric installation.

"From its inauspicious beginnings of energizing a few hundred households, it now lights up the homes of more than 36 million Filipinos," said the NEA.

The agency hailed the program for being "instrumental in improving the socio-economic lives of the people, opening up investment opportunities and providing impetus for robust economic growth in the countryside."

'O llaw'

"The state's O'llaw program has integrated all rural electrification efforts of the (energy family) towards the goal of attaining total barangay electrification by (2008) and 90-percent household electrification by 2017," according to the Department of Energy website.

In the next four years, electric cooperatives are tasked to provide power to 3,571 of the remaining 3,710 barangay units. The ECs had earlier energized 32,409 (out of 35,980 barangay units nationwide).

The other 139 barangays will be handled by other electric distribution utilities: the Manila Electric Co. (Meralco), 77; local government units, 46; private independently owned utilities, 8; and other utilities, 8.

The Lopez-owned Meralco had earlier energized 4,240 (98 percent) of 4,317 barangays in its coverage area.

Over the past 35 years, 96 percent of Luzon had been energized. In the Visayas, the figure stood at 90 percent, while in Mindanao, it was 80 percent.

Uneven distribution

Those figures indicate what some NEA critics call "uneven distribution of power."

But Bueno said that wasn't the case. She should know: she has been with the NEA for over 30 years.

"Some areas which double as energy sources—like Bicol and Eastern Visayas where you have geothermal power, and Lanao—actually suffer from low level of electrification," she said. "There are several factors to consider, like peace and order."

During the past 10 years, an average of P450 to P500 million a year in state subsidies has been provided to support ECs, the NEA's main partners in the rural electrification effort.

(To be continued)

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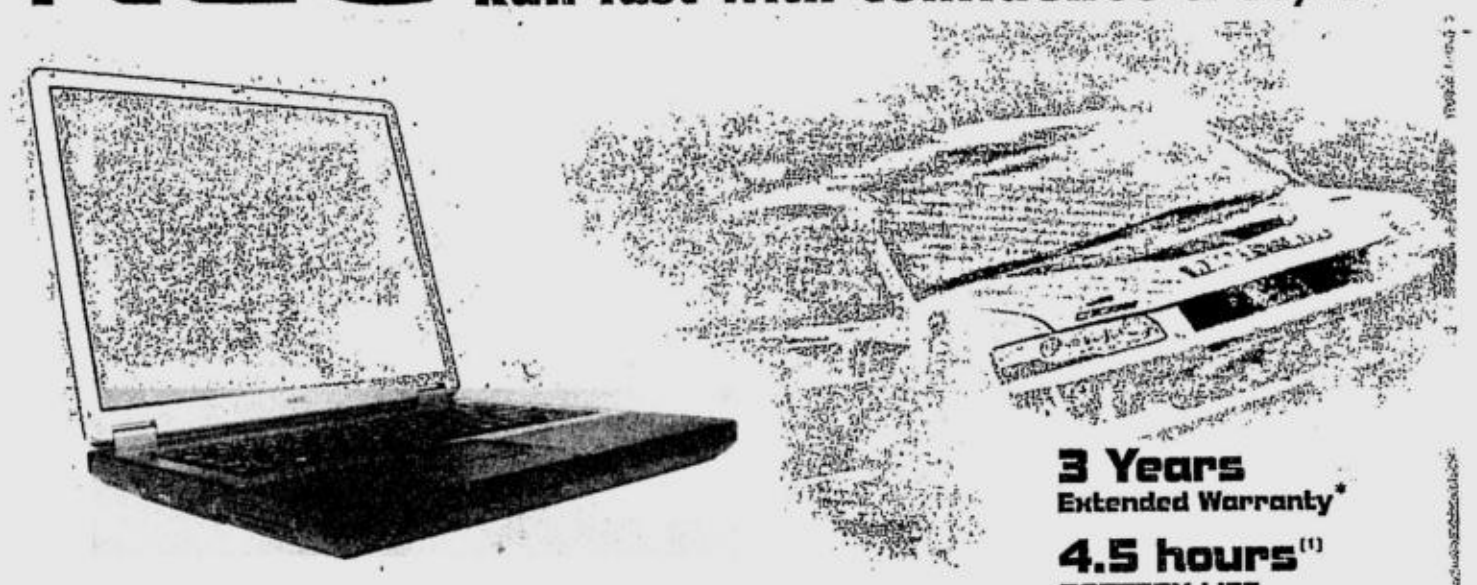

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PROMO PERIOD: SEPTEMBER 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2004

Firm to set-up stock index fund

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange (PSE) said a foreign group was interested in setting up an exchange traded fund (ETF), which would be listed on the local bourse.

The ETF is similar to an index-tracker fund, or a mutual fund invested in stocks that make up the main composite index.

"This is a good time to set-up exchange traded funds. It allows one to buy index stocks at a lower cost. You diversify your risks and you don't have to follow each and every stock," PSE chair Alicia Rita Arroyo said.

Arroyo, however, declined to identify the foreign group.

The Securities and Exchange Commission, meanwhile, said it was still reviewing the rules that would govern the ETFs.

BPI Asset Management and Trust Group (ATMG), one of the country's biggest fund managers, earlier introduced its Philippine Index Fund (PIF), the country's first index tracker mutual fund that targets the larger retail market.

PIF draws inspiration from the first United States index tracker fund, the Vanguard 500 Index Fund, pioneered by the Vanguard Core Management Group in 1976.

The Vanguard Fund had an initial value of $11.4 million and tracks the S&P 500 index.

The indexing giant now has 37 index-tracker funds and $296 billion in assets under its wing.

State pension funds are the biggest buyers of these funds.

With the PIF, BPI ATMG said the risk was managed by putting money in all 33 stocks that make up the Philippine Stock Exchange composite index (Phisix).

The fund mimics the movement of the Phisix and has eked out returns of as much as 42.2 percent last year during a soft launch. PIF started with just P58.5 million in net asset value in December 2002 and has grown to P340 million as of August this year.

The fund is handled by experts who manage a fixed income fund worth P20.5 billion and a dollar fund worth P4 billion.

"It's a better alternative to investors who may not have the time to invest individually. No (it won't compete with brokers), and it would encourage more investments in the market," AMTG head Adelbert Legasto said earlier.

WB provides grant for indigenous peoples

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE WORLD Bank has provided a fresh $1.15-million grant to help the Philippine government develop programs to benefit indigenous peoples in agrarian reform communities.

"This effort fits well with the two overarching objectives of the WB's country assistance strategy that we are currently preparing—economic growth and social inclusion," said the bank's country director Joachim von Amsberg.

"It also supports the bank's policy of ensuring that indigenous peoples participate and benefit from development projects assisted by the bank," he added.

The grant was funded by the Japanese government's Japan Social Development Fund, which was being administered by the WB.

Von Amsberg said the WB believed that the convergence of indigenous peoples' issues, agrarian reform and local development approaches would help catalyze growth in rural areas.

"We are particularly delighted that this project would provide an opportunity for government agencies, with specific sectoral mandates and target clienteles, to closely work together toward the common goal of making development interventions in local communities more inclusive and integrated," von Amsberg said.

With the integration of these issues in the development agenda of local governments and the streamlining of participatory and culturally-responsive processes in areas with agrarian reform beneficiaries and indigenous peoples, he said development efforts could effectively reach vulnerable sectors of society.

"This project is expected to test innovative approaches for community-driven development undertakings involving indigenous peoples living inside and outside ancestral domain areas," von Amsberg said.

"The tested approaches are expected to initially benefit those communities covered by the grant," he said.

"However, it is anticipated that other indigenous people communities served by the Department of Land Reform and other agencies will also eventually benefit with the adoption of these same approaches in communities beyond the scope of this grant," he said.

Local energy sources expensive, exec says

By Abigail L. Ho

DEVELOPING indigenous energy sources makes sense, but using these will come at a price.

"The drive for a greater use of indigenous fuels makes sense but let us not raise our hopes. Existing indigenous fuels are limited and a number are expensive," said First Generation Holdings Inc. vice chair and chief executive Peter Garrucho Jr.

Garrucho, however, said that the country should continue developing its energy sources, given the volatility in international oil prices.

The Department of Energy committed to make the country 60 percent energy self-sufficient by 2010, by developing indigenous energy resources.

As part of this thrust, the government spent $175 million to get a 10-percent stake in the Malampaya Deep Water Gas-to-Power project in Palawan, through the Philippine National Oil Co. Exploration Corp.

While it is now working on divesting almost half of its stake in the project, the government still wanted to maintain some of ownership because of the gas find's projected good returns.

There was also the possibility of augmenting the country's overall power capacity by providing gas to local power plants.

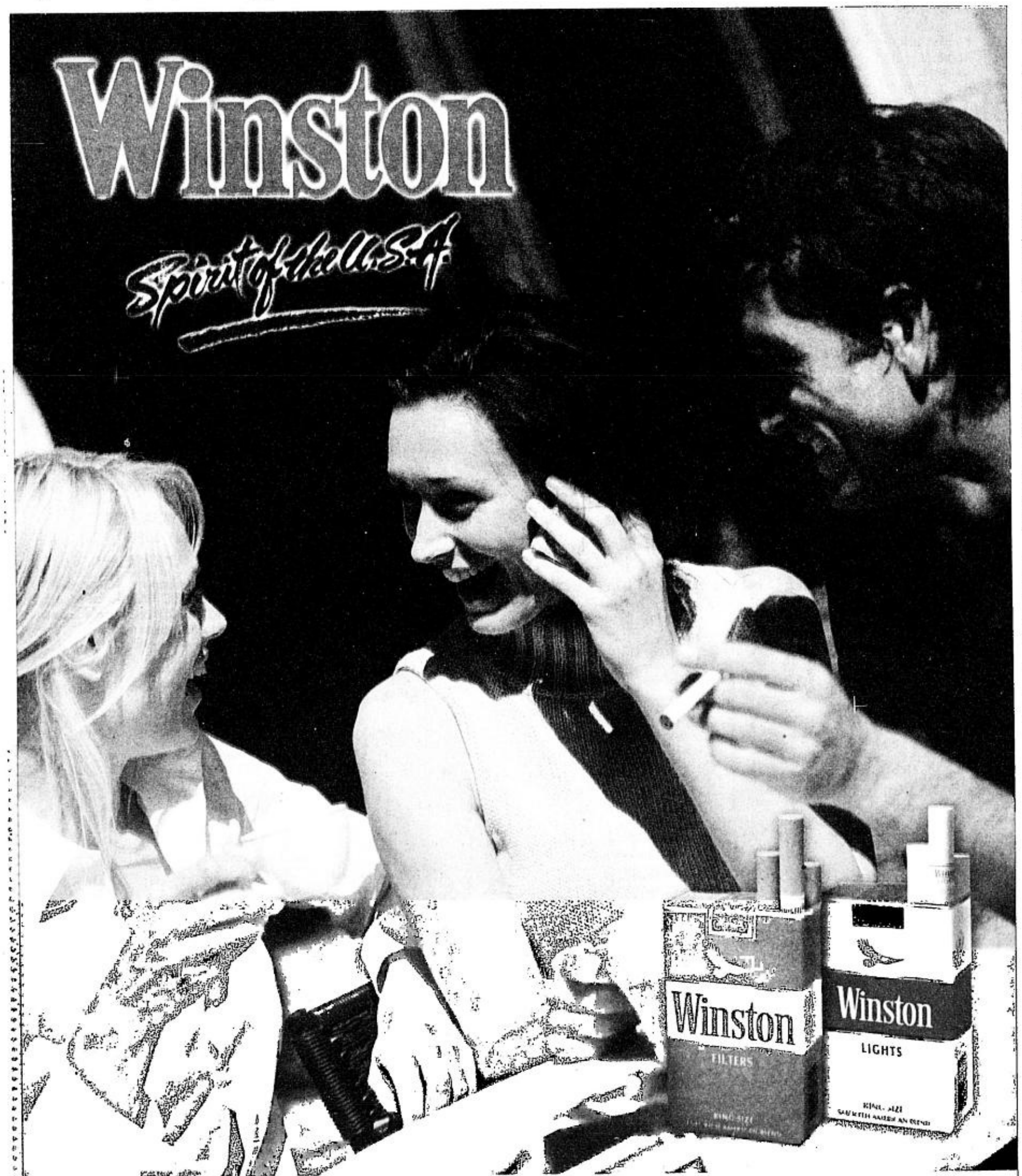
But because of the project's deep water nature and distance from natural gas-fired plants, the price of the Malampaya gas was higher than that of imported liquefied natural gas (LNG).

Significant amounts in royalties and taxes also have to be remitted to government, further driving up the Malampaya gas cost.

The country likewise opts to develop expensive geothermal gas fields and hydropower facilities, particularly as most parts of the world have displayed renewed interest in renewable energy.

The government, through the PNOC Energy Development Corp., and the private sector were also looking at harnessing the power of the wind to deliver electricity to households. This despite the high costs entailed in using such a power source as well as the usually marginal wind mass in the country due to its proximity to the equator.

"Indigenous fuels definitely improve the path to energy sustainability and we have made considerable progress. But we should not pin our hopes on the search and use of indigenous fuels because we also have to reckon with their costs and availability," Garrucho said.



Experts asked to validate 'halal' claims

COTABATO CITY—The Halal Information Certification Center (HICC) has called on Muslims specializing in food chemistry-related disciplines to help validate manufacturers' "halal" product labeling and advertising for Muslim consumers here and abroad.

The HICC was put up by Muslim businesspersons and groups in General Santos City to authenticate, among others, claims by companies that their products were prepared in accordance with Islam.

According to the Oxford Dictionary of World Religions, Halal is the Arabic word for lawful, permitted or allowed, (commonly used) in food, cosmetics and source of living.

Speaking over a radio station here recently, Ahmad Dunya of the HICC admitted that his group was having difficulty validating authenticity of halal claims on some products sold in the country.

He said over 100 food and non-food products of the country's leading manufacturing firms have been certified as halal by his group and two other certifying bodies—the Halal Resource Center (HRC) and the Islamic Da'wah Council of the Philippines based in Manila.

As with the HICC, the other two groups were non-government entities.

Dunya warned that not all halal food labeling and advertising were validated by any of the three certifying organizations, owing mainly to the scarcity of experts.

But he said the certification of the three groups issue attests to the "halal" labeling, mostly written in Arabic, in some food and non-food products.

This guarantees that nothing in the ingredients of the certified products contained pork or its by-products, such as lard, gelatin, animal enzymes, or emulsifier cream, which are prohibited for Muslims.

Dunya said HICC and the two other halal certifying group were challenging Muslim individuals specializing in technical fields like chemistry, veterinary medicine, biology, food technology and nutrition, and even doctors of medicine, to help them pool technical experts in food processing as a "noble cause."

In the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), the Regional Economic Zone Authority (Reza) said it was forming stronger institutional links among government and private sector groups to validate product label claims and truth in advertising for halal products.

ARMM Gov. Parouk Hussin said Reza was projected to evolve as the region's industrial hub and global trading front, principally with neighboring Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippine East Asean Growth Area (BIMP-Eaga) regional economic polygon.

Lawyer Ishaq Veloso Mastura, the region's trade and industry secretary, said Reza offers manufacturing firms duty-free package for import of machinery and mechanical equipment needed in the processing of halal food and non-food products, and a three-year tax holiday period. *Nash B. Maulana, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Court junks case vs construction of SM-Clark

ANGELES CITY—The regional trial court here has dismissed the case seeking to nullify the SM Prime Holdings contract with the Clark Development Corp. (CDC) to build and operate the P500-million SM Super Mall at the entrance of the Clark Special Economic Zone.

Judge Philbert Iturralde of the RTC branch 58, in his decision issued on Oct. 4, said the petitioners, led by the Pinoy Gumising Ka Movement, "have insufficient or has no cause of action" against respondents CDC and SM Prime Holdings' subsidiary, Premier Central Inc.

"Nowhere can it be shown in the petition that indeed said taxpayers have suffered or will suffer directly and personally on the assailed contract entered into and between respondents," the court said.

It said there was no clear evidence to show unlawful diversions or misuse of public funds and that the petitioners have incurred or suffered damages as taxpayers.

"Curiously, the court wonders also why (the) petitioners have been silent against other establishments similarly built in the area," the court said, referring to at least two shopping malls that recently opened in the area.

The Koalisyon Kontra SM-Clark, a multi-sectoral group led by the PGKM, has been opposing the establishment of the SM mall, saying its operation would lead to the closure of small retail shops in this city and nearby towns.

Other members of the coalition include the Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry-Angeles City, Pampanga Supermarkets and Groceries Association, Dau Traders Association, Angeles Market Vendors Association, Move Clark Now, and the militant group Bagong Alyansang Makabayan-Central Luzon. *Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Track your electricity costs through website

By Abigail L. Ho

KNOWING just how much electricity an appliance in your house consumes may just be the key to hundreds of pesos in monthly savings for your household.

Lopez-led Manila Electric Co., after conducting a two-month customer satisfaction index survey, discovered that this was what its customers wanted most—a treasure trove of useful knowledge that they could use in bringing down their electricity bills.

To make it easier for customers to access this information, the power distributor revised its website (www.meralco.com.ph) to include a user-friendly Meralco Appliance Calculator (MAC) that allowed users to compute how much certain appliances contributed to their monthly power consumption.

All a customer needs to do is plug in some readily available information to the required fields, including how frequent the appliance is used and how much the average monthly bill is for his household.

The MAC offers a wide range of appliance types that a customer can choose from—from the simplest 25-watt incandescent bulb to Xbox game consoles to 55-inch projection television sets—to ensure that computations will be as close to the actual consumption as possible.

For a household with an average monthly bill of P2,500 a month, for example, a standard 14-inch color television used eight hours a day, seven times a week, four times a month contributed P128.78 to that household's monthly electricity bill.

Meralco datamart analyst Raldrin Santos said the old Meralco website also contained a consumption calculator, but this was more difficult to use as it required users to identify all appliances used in the house as well as the length of time these were actually used.

Other website features include the franchise map, which tells users which Meralco payment center is nearest their locations, as well as the electronic bill presentment system that allows customers to see their billing history and billing status online.

Upon enrollment to the program, Santos said customers would also receive billing notifications via e-mail, apart from the paper bills that get delivered to their doorsteps each month.

The company is currently planning to implement an online payment system directly linked to its website.

Chinese investors eye Palawan mine prospects

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—Two groups of Chinese businessmen visited Palawan recently to study the possibility of investing in fisheries and mineral exploration. The most recent was a seven-man team from Jingnin Group of China Micro Crystal Company, which is engaged in mineral production.

Gov. Joel Reyes, who met with the group earlier this month, said it was an offshoot of the recent state visit of President Macapagal-Arroyo to China where he was part of the delegation.

Chinese Ambassador Wu Hong Bo arrived here recently to inspect Calamianes Group of Islands in Northern Palawan where a $33-million grant from the Chinese government help build fishport facilities.

He was also with another group of businessmen.

"There was already meeting of the minds," Reyes said as to the possibility of Chinese investments in Palawan.

The group, led by Wang Chang Lin and accompanied by Commercial Attache to China Jorge Mendoza Judan, got samples from silica mining sites in Roxas, Palawan.

But due to bad weather, they failed to inspect the entire site that used to be one of the biggest sources of silica in the Philippines.

The operations were stopped because of problems with capital.

Many attempted to revive the silica industry in Roxas but failed.

Reyes said the provincial government would take into consideration the environmental and health aspects of every investment.

Palawan is in the mineral map of the Philippines and part of the agenda of the President is to encourage small-scale mining. *Jofelle P. Tesorio, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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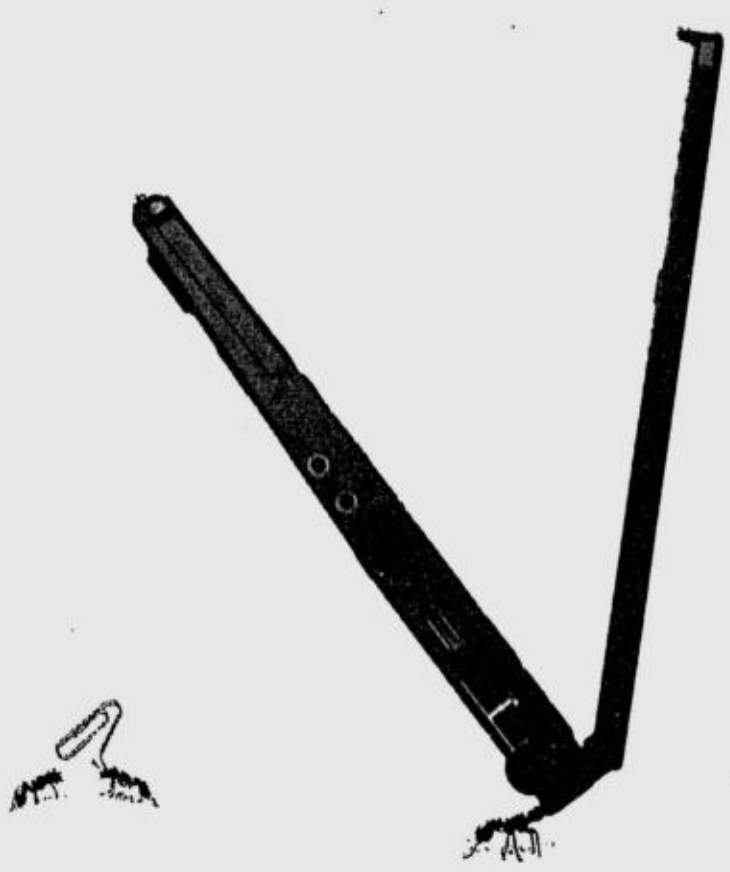

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Editor Aries Espinosa

Male baldness can be treated medically

MALE pattern hair loss (MPHL) is not just a cosmetic concern, but a medical problem that should be treated as such, according to ProHair advocates.

ProHair is an information advocacy established by pharmaceutical company Merck Sharp & Dohme (MSD) in collaboration with the Philippine Dermatological Society (PDS). It aims to promote awareness on the science behind MPHL, highlighting the fact that male pattern hair loss is a medical concern, which should be addressed medically and scientifically.

MPHL, or androgenic alopecia is the most common form of hair loss. The condition is influenced by heredity, the male hormone (androgen) and age.

Men who suffer from or are genetically predisposed to MPHL may opt to use prescription drugs, which are either applied topically or taken orally, according to Dr. Gio Dimayuga, a skin and hair medical expert who spoke during the recent ProHair media forum at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel.

Topical solutions may stop hair loss in some users with varying results. Continued use and application is required to maintain the benefits of topical solutions. "However, some people may find topical solutions to be inconvenient and messy," said Dimayuga.

An oral drug for the treatment of MPHL is also available. This particular medicine, a proven oral treatment for hair loss, is designed to inhibit the production of dihydrotestosterone (DHT). DHT has been found to be a culprit in MPHL. Studies have shown that using this medicine in MPHL can avert further hair loss and help prevent severe baldness, Dimayuga explained.

According to Dimayuga, the age of 30 is a crucial and ambivalent period in men's lives. "Not only is the third decade of life the time when men are reaching the peak of their careers and gaining financial stability, it is also the period when the onset of baldness is likely to occur."

PDS president Dr. Francisca Roa gave the welcome remarks during the media forum. "Dermatologists must lead efforts in providing professional knowledge and information about hair loss and make patients aware that hair loss is a medical condition that can be addressed by medical experts," Roa stressed.

On the other hand, MSD corporate affairs director Christine Liwanag took the occasion to expound on results of relevant research the pharmaceutical company conducted.

"An Assessment of the MPHL Market" aimed to determine the incidence of seekers/non-seekers of treatments for MPHL and assess the attitudes, beliefs, knowledge and experience of patients in relation to the condition. The study involved 100 men aged 18 to 50 from the greater Manila area (GMA) and Metro Cebu.

"Respondents who were very bothered or affected by their hair loss said they were primarily worried because their condition was affecting their personality and confidence," Liwanag explained. "Thirty-two percent of the respondents also perceived that the primary cause of their hair loss was the use of hair products such as shampoo, while 48 percent believed that hair loss is hereditary and occurs naturally."

According to Liwanag, more stakeholders have now joined ProHair in its effort to increase awareness on MPHL and its treatment. "There is now also interest among other hair well-being advocates such as Headzone Salon, Bruno's Barbershop, among others."

Scientifically proven treatments are now available and men with MPHL may prevent further progression, according to ProHair. The advocacy program recommends affected men make an appointment with a dermatologist for a hair loss evaluation.

Men who enroll in the ProHair program will receive up-to-date information on MPHL and medical news, as well as invitation to special events related to the advocacy program.

For more information on the ProHair advocacy program, call the ProHair hotline at 878-6338, fax 813-1172 or e-mail inquire@prohair-info.com.

FIRST BANK MARKETING BADMINTON CUP

The Bank Marketing Association of the Philippines (BMAP) recently held a successful 2-day badminton tournament in coordination with Badminton Philippines, and participated in by 22 member-banks and guest teams from the Economic Journalists Association of the Philippines (Ejap) and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) at Powersmash in Makati City. Shown during the opening ceremonies were (from left), PNB president Lorenzo Tan, RP's top badminton player and tournament director Ian Piencenaves, Globe Solutions senior marketing manager Jay Perez, and BMAP vice president and tournament coordinator Roberto Banaag of Planters Bank.

HONDA CARS PASIG EMPOWERS CUSTOMERS IN DRIVING SEMINAR

Honda Cars Pasig recently gathered its valued customers for a Driving Orientation aimed at educating drivers on preventive car maintenance, defensive driving and basic troubleshooting. Shown is HC Pasig service reception officer Ernie Samson sharing with attendees some quick and easy-to-remember tips in handling basic and common automobile concerns. The branch regularly conducts in-house seminars on driving-related topics for its customers. To inquire about the dealership's forthcoming driving seminar schedules, call the customer relations department at 632-8092 or 634-2730 locals 102 to 105. Honda Cars Pasig, together with Honda Cars Makati, Honda Cars Alabang and Honda Cars Shaw, is a branch of Honda Cars Makati Inc, a member of the Ayala Group of Companies.

PRINTING EXCELLENCE

PrintX ruled in digital printing at the recently concluded Graphic Expo 2004. PrintX has put together the best of all crafts, from putting the most advanced printing technology and software to producing high-quality output in graphics. Shown is the staff of PrintX, from left, Randy, graphic artist, Dennis, head operator, Apple, sales, vice president for sales Claudette Sequeno-Baniqued and managing director Jaime Baniqued. For details, call 741-5724, 740-5762, or e-mail.printx@skynet.net.

BDO BRANCH IN STA. CRUZ, MANILA

Banco de Oro Universal Bank (BDO) recently opened its Masangkay branch located at Lun Hong Townmates Association Building, 1226 Masangkay Street, Sta. Cruz, Manila, across St. Stephen's High School. Banking hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Mondays to Fridays. Shown at the inauguration together with the branch officers and staff were Jaime Yu, EVP of branch banking (right), Terry Siy, area head (left), and and Tiffany Ong Lu, branch manager (3rd from left). The bank provides remittance services, foreign exchange, bills payment, insurance, loans as well as investment products.

Go Pink, celebrate life

IF YOU want to be in the pink of health, you've got to help yourself. On Oct. 25, Woman Today, the first women's magazine in the Philippines, the Zonta Club of Makati and Environs Foundation Inc and the Bessie B. Legarda Memorial Foundation will hold the "Go Pink and Celebrate Life". This event pays tribute to women who continue to work for breast cancer awareness and other women's health concerns. "This October, women everywhere will wear pink. They will wear the Pink Ribbon of Hope, to remind them that prevention is the best medicine," says Monica R. Aveo, associate publisher and general manager of Solar Publishing Corp, which publishes Woman Today. Women 20 years old and above are encouraged to do a monthly breast self examination (BSE), and those 50 years old and above to have an annual mammogram.

FMI for España Exporta 2004

THE SPANISH Institute for Foreign Trade and the Spanish Embassy recently signed Fairs & More Inc (FMI) as the official event organizer for España Exporta 2004. Spain chose the Philippines as the first country in Asia to host the event based on strong cultural ties and the rapidly expanding trade between the two countries. This year's edition of España Exporta will be held from Oct. 26 to 28 at the Hotel Inter-Continental Manila in Makati City. The event will feature 18 high-profile Spanish companies seeking partnerships and dealerships in the country and 8 consulting and engineering firms holding parallel seminars on infrastructures. FMI is an international trade fair company that organizes exhibitor and visitor packages for companies and organizations to internationally recognized trade fairs, exhibitions, and congresses.

BPI Clips

Promoting foodservice business

IDENTIFYING, finding, attracting and maintaining customers are the next most important concerns of a foodservice business operator after tackling the food and service aspects. A seminar-workshop for restaurateurs, caterers, resort operators and food service executives titled "Foodservice Marketing and Promotion" by MB&G/ProActive is slated from Oct. 26 to 29, 1 to 5 p.m. at Eastwood City, Libis, Quezon City. The workshop aims to equip foodservice operators with basic knowledge and skills in marketing, advertising, and promotions for foodservice establishment. MB&G/ProActive has been in the business of training foodservice executives and hospitality business owners since 1989. Reservations are being accepted on a first-come-first-served basis. For details, call PACT at 687-1787 or 0916-8226053.

Mapua gets PRC citation

MAPUA Institute of Technology, the country's premier school of engineering and Information Technology has been commended by the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) for "the excellent performance" of Mapua graduates in the latest board examinations for architects.

According to the PRC Board of Architecture, the recognition is given to Mapua as it ranked second among all schools whose graduates took the recent Architect Licensure Examinations in June 2004.

Mapua has an enviable track record in board examinations, historically topping most of government engineering licensure tests.

The school has also excelled in producing computer engineering and IT graduates as it has adopted globally oriented curriculum, and heavily invested in cutting edge IT education equipment and facilities/technologies.

Recently, some of Mapua's undergraduate students were accepted at the California Polytechnic University (Calpoly) as part of Mapua's exchange program with respected engineering and computer schools worldwide.

With the Yuchengco Group's vision of positioning Mapua as the privately managed center of engineering and computer education in this part of Asia as YGC's contribution to the country's sustained economic growth, Mapua has recently introduced biological science programs starting with Bachelor of Science in Biology, and BS Nursing courses at its Makati campus, Mapua president Dr. Rey B. Vea said.

Mapua's latest offering of biotechnology and health science programs comes about with the granting to Mapua of Full Autonomous Status by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED). This coveted distinction and autonomous CHED classification recognizes Mapua's sterling academic and education management excellence and innovations for the past several years, Milagros V. Reyes, Mapua's operations executive vice president, added.

Mapua's full autonomous status allows the erstwhile engineering, architecture and computer-focused college to introduce different academic/curricular programs, and campuses nationwide, without the need for prior evaluation, approval and clearance from CHED, the government regulatory office for all colleges and universities in the country, Vea said.

LG participates in Adidas Sports Time at Ayala Center

LG ELECTRONICS, an enterprise that has achieved digital leadership by providing innovative products and services, has also been at the forefront in supporting Philippine sports through various notable activities such as the LG Flatron Billiards Challenge. This time, LG Electronics lends its support to Adidas Philippines Inc along with Swatch and Gift Gate for "A Sports Time" at Ayala Center.

The recently concluded event is a celebration of the Olympics and the Sports Time at Ayala Center, which allowed shoppers and students to enjoy an exhibit as well as sports playground at the Glorietta Activity Center. The event was formally opened by Rep. Teddy Boy Locsin. Among the many highlights of the event was the torch relay led by Swatch lady and Asian Games gold medallist Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski and Edgardo Buenavista, official Philippine representative to the athletics event of the 2003 Athens Olympics.

LG showcased the latest in its White Lines products, which included LG's air conditioning systems, microwave ovens and refrigerators that were displayed for the benefit of onlookers and participants. Also on display were the Brown Lines of digital and flat screen TVs and entertainment systems featuring LG's revolutionary XD Engine. The XD Engine features six performances, namely: Pixel Works, Real Cinema, Base Coordinator, Super Detailer, Noise Buster and True Color; putting it at the forefront of home entertainment technology.

Among the lines carrying the XD Engine are the PDP Series, MDP Series, Projection TV, LCD TV and the Flat TV line, which includes the sleek and stylish Lafinion and FB90 models.

LG Electronics Philippines is the digital leader in home appliances and display devices by introducing breakthrough and cutting edge products in the electronics, information and communications products arena, with more than 12,000 highly motivated and skilled individuals employed in 36 production facilities, 16 research and development centers and with 700 dealer branches nationwide. LG Philippines has established a wide area network connecting all 12 area branch sales offices and 75 authorized service centers in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. LG Philippines continuously strengthens core competencies in marketing, technology, design and networking.

LG Electronics' goal is to enable the intelligent networking of digital products that will make consumers' lives easier than ever. For more information, log on to www.lge.com or call the LG customer information center at 640-2525.

On Wall Street, Google may be up for a ticker tape parade

NEW YORK—Has the pep rally resumed on Wall Street?

The cheerleading for Google from the analysts at leading brokerage firms is starting to sound a lot like the days of the dot-com bubble, when some of the same analysts would appear on TV trumpeting ever-higher prices for profitless Internet companies.

Google shares surged by more than $23 on Friday to close at $172.43, after the company reported better-than-expected earnings on Thursday. That was more than double the $85 price of its initial public offering in August.

A number of Wall Street analysts, in turn, immediately raised their price targets for the company, encouraging investors to buy more shares. Mark Rowen, for example, the veteran Internet stock analyst at Prudential Equity Group, increased his price target—the price he expects the shares to reach in the next 12 to 18 months—from $130 to $200. Heath Terry of Credit Suisse First Boston, one of Google's lead underwriters, raised his target from $144 to $177. And Mary Meeker at Morgan Stanley, the other lead underwriter, adjusted her valuation model to $168 from $132, saying that the model "could prove conservative."

Such an enormous increase in the value of a company over a few weeks recalls the day in December 1998 when Henry Blodget, then an analyst for Oppenheimer & Co., famously predicted that Amazon.com, then trading at $240, would soon rise to $400. It reached that target in three weeks. Three years later, Amazon shares were selling for one-tenth that price.

"We have seen this before," said Jake Zamansky, a New York lawyer who has represented investors who claim they were misled by brokerage firms. "Google is another bubble that will burst. Next year we will bring claims by investors who were hyped to buying Google by analysts with a herd mentality."

While the behavior of Google shares is not unlike that of some bubble stocks, the company is by no means similar to the start-ups that had Web addresses but no profits.

Google's revenues are expected to be about $3 billion this year and its profit margins would be the envy of any company. Even so, skeptics question whether the five-year-old company—now with a total market value of $47 billion—is really in the same league as the world's largest media companies.

New York Times

US, China in new round of trade dispute

WASHINGTON—The Bush administration has decided that it will impose a quota on sock imports from China—the latest round of an increasingly bitter trade dispute with Beijing—showing a willingness to protect American workers ahead of the election.

Trade has become a hot issue on the campaign trail with President George W. Bush, an unrepentant free trader, accusing his Democratic opponent John Kerry of being an "economic isolationist."

Kerry has countered that Bush has not done enough to protect American workers from unfair foreign competition.

The US trade deficit with China hit an all time high for any country of $124 billion last year and is running at an even higher $140 billion rate this year.

Seeking to reduce the deficit, the Bush administration has been pushing China to ease its pegged currency system. American manufacturers say the system, which keeps the yuan as much as 40 percent undervalued, gives Chinese products a tremendous competitive advantage.

The interagency Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements, chaired by the Commerce Department, ruled Friday that sock imports from China are disrupting the US market and there is a risk of further disruption.

The committee will seek talks with China to try to ease or avoid any disruption.

Once consultations are sought, the department said, "a quota will be put in place to limit US imports of socks from China" to an increase between 6 percent and 7.5 percent over current import levels, a far smaller increase than has occurred in recent years.

"The United States will make every effort to reach a mutually satisfactory agreement with the Government of China to ease or avoid the disruption in the US market within 90 days of such a request," the department said.

If talks fail, the quota will remain in effect for a year, the department said.

Besides socks, US textile and clothing manufacturers on Oct. 12 asked the administration to protect them against a surge of Chinese imports next year, when worldwide quotas are removed under World Trade Organization rules. The petitions covers cotton and synthetic trousers, wool trousers, cotton and synthetic knit shirts and underwear.

The administration will have to make an initial ruling on the technical merits of the cotton trousers petition on Nov. 1, one day before the election.

US manufacturers have been concerned they could be ruined by a flood of low-cost socks from China as import quotas expire at the end of the year. So they led an industry call last summer for the administration to help. *AP*

US airline said to be on verge of bankruptcy

WASHINGTON—Delta Air Lines Inc. could file for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection as soon as next week, the Washington Post reported in its Saturday edition, citing an unnamed source familiar with the situation.

The troubled airline could file as early as Wednesday or Thursday, according to the article on the newspaper's website.

But a filing could be delayed if the airline is able to obtain $1 billion in pay and benefit cuts it has sought from its pilots.

A company spokesperson told Reuters that the company plans to do whatever it can to avoid filing for bankruptcy protection.

"Given Delta's financial situation, there is no question that we are in a race against time, but we are doing every thing possible to do what we can outside of bankruptcy," Delta spokesperson Patsy Mulcahy said.

Still, even if pilots agree on the concessions, a Chapter 11 is likely, the Post wrote.

Earlier this week, the troubled carrier reported a third quarter net loss of $646 million, or $5.16 a share.

The four hurricanes that struck the US crippled a significant portion of Delta's southeastern operations during the quarter, resulting in an estimated revenue loss of about $50 million.

In addition, operating expenses for the September 2004 quarter increased 14.9 percent from the same period a year ago, primarily because of a 63.1 percent hike in fuel costs, the company said.

Delta's bankruptcy filing would mark it as the third US carrier operating under Chapter 11 at the same time.

That has not happened among the top 10 domestic airlines since 1992, the Post wrote. *Reuters*

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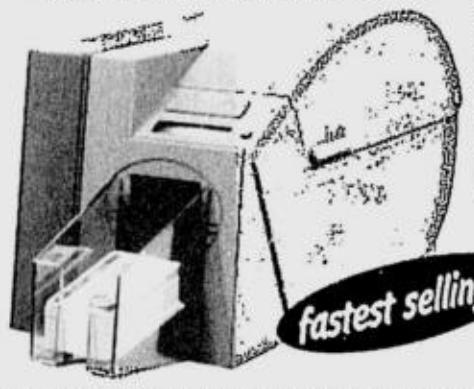

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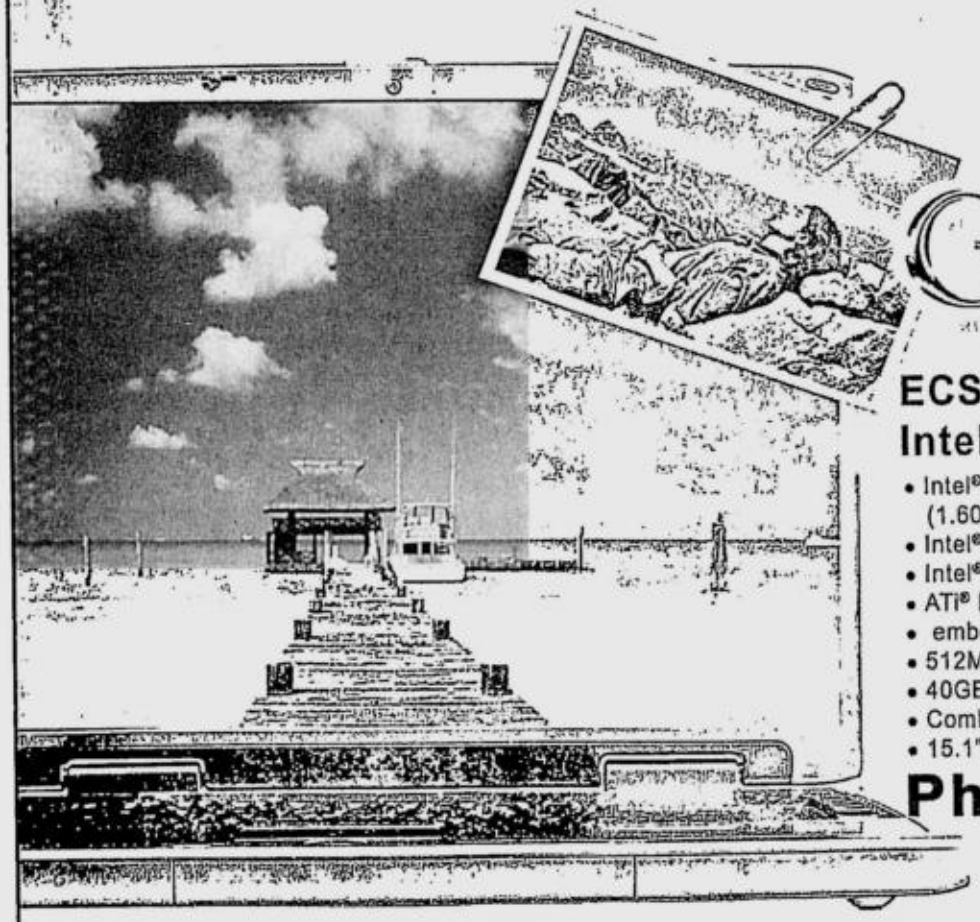

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CONDO/TWNHSE

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PASIG

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T-8184238 / 8127741

APARTMENT

MAKATI

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REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

APARTMENT

MAKATI

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P.Tamo Mkti 0917-8735804 747-5249 640-0331 D Ludge

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1.5% w/oTaking Car 3732081-82

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1.5% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

•1HR Fast Car Loan 7125202•

•1HR Fast Car Loan 7125202•

2% w/o Taking Car 7262780

2% w/o taking car 7880183-84

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

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PUBLIC NOTICES

AUCTION SALE

JAC FILIPINAS PAWNSHOP INC. 100 C. Palanca St Quiapo Manila will sell all unredeemed pledges for the months of APR & MAY 2004 on Nov. 16, 2004 at 8:30am. J. Lanuza Auctioneer (PDI-October 25, 2004)

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of Nolasco San Juan has been extrajudicially settled w/ waiver of share by his heirs before Notary Public Carlos Abesamis of Pasig City per Doc. No. 311, Page No. 64, Book No. VII, Series of 2004 (PDI-Oct. 25, Nov. 1, 8, 2004)

The estate of the late ERIBERTO FONTANILLA was Extrajudicially settled among her heirs as per Doc#359 Page#56 Book#II Series 2004 by Notary Public Ronald Dorado of Makati.
(PDI - Oct. 25, Nov. 1 & 8, 2004)

NOTICE OF LOSS

WILLIAM VILLEGAS LOST HIS CTD#15005R WHOEVER FOUND IT KINDLY RETURN IT TO BANK OF PARANAQUE PDI-Oct. 18, 25 & Nov. 2, 2004

RIVIERA GOLF CLUB, INC.

BY-PASS ROAD, SILANG, CAVITE

NOTICE OF SALE OF DELINQUENT RGCI SHARES AT AUCTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE RIVIERA GOLF CLUB, INC. (RGCI) WILL SELL THE FOLLOWING DELINQUENT SHARES AT A PUBLIC AUCTION PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE BY-LAWS, FOR NON-PAYMENT OF THE MONTHLY DUES AND OTHER ASSESSMENTS:

A01210	A00398	B00012	A00914	A00586	A00379	B00373	A00881
A00558	A00236	A00070	A00621	A01024	A01676	B00150	B00193
B00036	A00351	A00781	B00226	B00207	A00308	A01040	C00100
A00576	B00013	A00432	A01162	A01316	A01414	A01032	A00335
A00104	C00159	C00915	C00023	C00309	C00043	C00144	C00109
C00057	B00363	A00918	A01509	A01598	A01416	C00246	

THE AUCTION DATE IS SET ON OCTOBER 29, 2004 AT 10:00 O'CLOCK A.M., AT THE TEÉ PAVILION, RIVIERA GOLF CLUB, INC., SILANG CAVITE.

ALL INTERESTED PARTIES MAY PARTICIPATE IN THE BIDDING. PROSPECTIVE BIDDERS ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER WITH THE CLUB PRIOR TO THE ACTUAL TIME OF BIDDING.

BY AUTHORITY OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

(Sgd.) ATTY. ROLANDO G. BORJA
CORPORATE SECRETARY

(PDI–Oct. 25, 2004)

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE
Bids and Awards Committee for Information Technology (BAC-IT)
Quezon City

October 25, 2004

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for:

Name of Project	:	CUSTOMIZATION / CONFIGURATION, INTEGRATION, MIGRATION AND INSTALLATION AND SUPPORT SERVICES OF CALL MONITORING SOFTWARE AND LEASE OF SERVER FOR THE BIR CONTACT CENTER AND BIR HELP DESK (Re-Bid)
Location of the Project	:	Bureau of Internal Revenue
Contract Duration	:	December 15, 2004 up to February 28, 2005
Approved Budget	:	P 6,750,000.00
Source of Funding	:	e-Government Fund

All interested parties may obtain the bidding documents from the BAC-IT Secretariat, c/o Room 605, 6/F, BIR-National Office Bldg., BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City starting October 25, 2004, upon payment of non-refundable fee of P1,400.00.

Pre-Bid Conference will be held on November 8, 2004, Monday, at 2:00 p.m., at the Executive Conference Room, 3/F BIR-National Office Building, BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

Deadline for the submission of eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals shall be on November 25, 2004, Thursday at 1:30 p.m. to be held at the Executive Conference Room, 3/F BIR-National Office Building, BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City to be followed by the opening of bids.

All particulars relative to eligibility process, bidding, evaluation of bids, post-qualification and award of contract shall be governed by the applicable provisions of Republic Act No. 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act and its implementing rules and regulations.

The BIR assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any excuse or loss that they may incur in the preparation of their bids. The BIR also reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any of the required formality therein and accept the bids most advantageous to the government.

For particulars, please inquire from the BAC-IT Secretariat, thru the Chief, SSTMD-IPOS at Room 302, 3/F, Revenue Computer Center (RCC) Bldg., BIR Compound, BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City or call telephone nos. 981-7085, 927-4101, 981-7079, 981-7080 and 928-3235 (fax) or e-mail us at lilibeth.maranan@bir.gov.ph.

(Sgd.) Atty. LEONOR S. VILLALON-ROGERS
Assistant Commissioner-HRDS
Chairman, BAC-IT

(PDI - Oct. 25 & Nov. 12, 2004)

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OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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In Loving Memory of our dearly beloved

GODOFREDO C. FERNANDEZ

on the occasion of his 16th Death Anniversary on October 25, 2004

Special Masses will be offered in the following churches:

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Tarlac City	Oct. 24, 8:30 am
Mary of the Mountain Church, Virginia City, NV, USA	Oct. 24, 11:30 am
Our Lady of Pentecost Parish, Loyola Heights, QC	Oct. 25, 6:30 am
St. Joseph Parish, Pittsburgh, PA, USA	Oct. 25, 6:45 am
Santissimo Rosario Church, UST, Manila	Oct. 25, 7:00 am
St. Bernard's Church, Easton, PA, USA	Oct. 25, 8:00 am
St. Ignatius Cathedral, Camp Aguinaldo	Oct. 25, 12:15 pm
BNS Chapel, Ft. Bonifacio	Oct. 25, 5:15 pm
Sta. Maria della Strada Parish, Katipunan Ave., QC	Oct. 25, 6:00 pm
Presentation of the Child Jesus Parish, BF Homes Parañaque	Oct. 25, 6:30 pm

In remembrance of a life well-lived

66th Birth Anniversary of

HON. SAMILO NERI BARLONGAY

October 25, 1938 – April 30, 2004

The family would like to extend our sincerest appreciation to all those who condoled with us in our moment of grief. As his wish, we request all those whose lives he has touched for prayers and mass offerings for the eternal repose of his soul.

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. Matthew 10:39

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PUBLIC ESTATES AUTHORITY

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INVITATION TO BID

The **PUBLIC ESTATES AUTHORITY (PEA)** is inviting interested parties to participate in the public bidding for the sale or lease of eleven (11) lots on a serviced land basis, located at the Central Business Park 1 A, Bay City (formerly known as Boulevard 2000), Pasay City, for mixed use or commercial development purposes.

1. Properties for sale or lease:

BLK		LOT	AREA[1] (M²)	MODE
A1	1	corner	3,843	SALE
A2	1	corner	3,462	SALE
A2	2	interior	2,568	SALE
A2	3	interior	2,611	SALE
A2	4	interior	2,573	SALE
A2	5	corner	3,321	SALE
A3	1	corner	2,500	SALE
A3	2	interior	2,222	SALE
B4		portion	5,825	SALE OR LEASE
B7		portion	4,648	SALE OR LEASE
B5		portion	18,348	SALE OR LEASE

[1] Subject to final survey

2. Qualified bidders:
   - **Sale :** Any Filipino citizen, of legal age; any government owned or controlled corporations and any government financial institution or any public corporation, which have complied with the requirements established by PEA for this bidding.
   - **Lease :** Any Filipino citizen, of legal age; any partnership, association or corporation, public or private of which at least 60% of the capital stock or of any interest in said capital stock belongs wholly to citizens of the Philippines and which is organized and constituted under the laws of the Philippines.
3. Interested qualified parties may obtain the Terms of Reference and Bid Documents upon payment of a non-refundable fee of FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (P5,000.00) in cash or Manager's/ Cashier's Check starting 28 September to 27 October, 2004 from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM at the Marketing Department, 7th Floor Legaspi Towers 200, Paseo de Roxas, Makati MM.
4. The first pre-bid conference is scheduled on 21 October 2004 at 10:00 AM at the PEA Conference Room.
5. Required pre-qualification documents and duly accomplished Bid Documents prescribed in the Terms of Reference shall be submitted to the PEA Real Estates Bids and Awards Committee (PREBAC) on 4 November 2004 on or before 10:00 AM. Public opening of bids shall follow at 10:30 AM of the same day.
6. For further information, inquiries may be made to the Marketing Department in the above address at telephone numbers 817-4711 to 13 (trunk line) and 813-7103 to 7104 (direct lines).

(Sgd.) TEODORICO C. TAGUINOD
General Manager/CEO

(PDI – Sept. 27 & Oct. 2, 7, 13, 18 & 25, 2004)

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

11 – 12 November 2004, Dusit Hotel Nikko, Makati City

QUALITY PARTNERSHIPS TOWARDS A DECENT WORKPLACE :

Blending Homegrown with Global Practices and Strategies

PROGRAMME

Day 1 – November 11, 2004 (Thursday)

8:00am Registration/Opening Ceremonies

9:45 Keynote Address: Promoting Fair Globalization and Decent Work: The Score Card From the Viewpoint of the ILO

10:30 PLENARY SESSION 1: Homegrown IR & HR Strategies and Practices: Sharing the Success of Employees Council

11:25 PANEL DISCUSSION: Examining the State of Labor – Management Relations in the Philippines

1:25pm PLENARY SESSION 2: Sharing the Success of a Filipino Enterprise: Balance between Contractual and Regular Decent Jobs

2:05 PLENARY SESSION 3: Sharing the Success of a Filipino Enterprise: Homegrown IR/HR Best Practices & Strategies for Global Competitiveness

3:00 PLENARY SESSION 4: Social Dialogue on Wage Fixing and Philippine Industrial Relations

3:50 PLENARY SESSION 5 Corporate Social Responsibility

8:15 PLENARY SESSION 6: Blending Homegrown with Best Global IR/HR Practices and Strategies in the Philippines

9:45 PLENARY SESSION 7: Strategic Role of IR/HR in Transforming Business Enterprises into Globally Competitive Workplaces

10:45 PLENARY SESSION 8: Blending New Trends in IR & HR Through Alternative Dispute Settlement

1:00pm Keynote Address: Philippine Labor Updates & Policy Directions Sec. P. A. Sto. Tomas, DOLE

1:30 PLENARY SESSION 9: Innovations in Collective Bargaining

2:30 PLENARY SESSION 10: From Adversarial to Quality Partnerships at the Workplace: Blending with Best Practices in Labor Management Relations

3:00 PLENARY SESSION 11: Learning from Global Best Practices on Quality Partnerships at the Workplace

3:50 PLENARY SESSION 12: Learning from Best Practices on Productivity: Blending Homegrown with Global Patterns

4:40 Integration/ Closing Ceremonies/ Acknowledgments

Day 2 – November 12, 2004 (Friday)

8:00am Registration

PHILIPPINE INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS SOCIETY, INC.

In partnership with the

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION - MANILA

For registration/queries, please contact:

Tel. Nos. 890-4889 (Ria/Brigida); 944-0014 (Irma); 948-3559 (Dick)
Fax Nos. 751-4804, 944-0031; E-mail address: pirs_natcon@yahoo.com

PRIVATIZATION AND MANAGEMENT OFFICE (PMO)

INVITATION TO SUBMIT OFFERS

Offered for Sale are fifty four (54) parcels of land formerly owned by PENINSULA BANK (Penbank), located at the towns of Pagbilao, Unisan and Tayabas Province of Quezon, as well as a parcel of land formerly owned by INTERLAND CHEMICALS, INC. (ICI), located at Barangay Balubad, Atimonan, Province of Quezon.

The 55 parcels of land are being offered on a per site and on an "as-is, where-is" basis, as follows:

Peninsula Development Bank (Penbank)
DAY 1 (Site 1 to 28)
November 23, 2004, Tuesday
Submission of Offers (2:00 to 3:00 p.m.)
(Opening of Tender Box - 3:00 p.m.)

Site No.	TCT No.	Lot No.	Area (sq.m.)	Indicative Price
1	T-201647	Lot-1117-A	3,719	803,000.00
2	T-390059	Lot-14-C-7	85	60,000.00
3	T-390060	Lot-14-C-11	100	95,000.00
4	T-390054	Lot-14-A-3	100	75,000.00
5	T-390055	Lot-14-A-4	100	75,000.00
6	T-390056	Lot-14-A-5	88	62,000.00
7	T-390058	Lot-10, Blk. 4	192	173,000.00
8	T-390052	Lot-2-A	120	108,000.00
9	T-390053	Lot-2-B	120	108,000.00
10	T-390087	Lot-16, Blk. 10-B	252	164,000.00
11	T-390086	Lot-7	115.5	87,000.00
12	T-390083	Lot-5	116	87,000.00
13	T-390085	Lot-7	119	87,000.00
14	T-390084	Lot-8	120	54,000.00
15	T-390103	Lot-6, Blk. 6	230	150,000.00
16	T-390089	Lot-7, Blk. 6	204	133,000.00
17	T-390051	Lot-6	89	67,000.00
18	T-390061	Lot-12, Blk. 6	227	148,000.00
19	T-390078	Lot-1	117	47,000.00
20	T-390076	Lot-8	110	66,000.00
21	T-390077	Lot-1	120	54,000.00
22	T-390075	Lot-2	183	82,000.00
23	T-390074	Lot-7	149	89,000.00
24	T-390072	Lot-6	97	58,000.00
25	T-390070	Lot-5	96	58,000.00
26	T-390071	Lot-4	107	64,000.00
27	T-390073	Lot-3, Blk. 10-A	372	130,000.00
28	T-390090	Lot-5	139	62,000.00

Peninsula Development Bank (Penbank)
DAY 2 (Site 29 to 54)
November 24, 2004, Wednesday
Submission of Offers (2:00 to 3:00 p.m.)
(Opening of Tender Box - 3:00 p.m.)

Site No.	TCT No.	Lot No.	Area (Sq.m.)	Indicative Price
29	T-390081	Lot-4	181	81,000.00
30	T-390079	Lot-3	117	53,000.00
31	T-390065	Lot-3	194	87,000.00
32	T-390068	Lot-6	142	85,000.00
33	T-390067	Lot-5	100	60,000.00
34	T-390066	Lot-4	96	58,000.00
35	T-390069	Lot-5	102	61,000.00
36	T-390088	Lot-4	82	37,000.00
37	T-390062	Lot-3	135	41,000.00
38	T-390063	Lot-5	84	22,000.00
39	T-390064	Lot-7	93	28,000.00
40	T-390101	Lot-12, Blk. 9	162	122,000.00
41	T-390097	Lot-3	199	129,000.00
42	T-390092	Lot-18, Blk. 10	162	122,000.00
43	T-390105	Lot-16, Blk. 5	163	108,000.00
44	T-390091	Lot-8, Blk. 11	231	150,000.00
45	T-390104	Lot-7, Blk. 13	137	89,000.00
46	T-390099	Lot-10, Blk. 13	150	98,000.00
47	T-390090	Lot-7, Blk. 8	150	90,000.00
48	T-390100	Lot-6, Blk. 8	150	90,000.00
49	T-390106	Lot-15, Blk 8	150	90,000.00
50	T-390102	Lot-11, Blk. 9	150	98,000.00
51	T-390096	Lot1-B-2	830	208,000.00
52	T-390108	Lot-745	125	188,000.00
53	T-390094	Lot-3 Blk 14	180	90,000.00
54	T-390109	Lot-9880-B-3-A	222	400,000.00

Interland Chemicals, Inc. (ICI)
DAY 2 (Site 55)
November 24, 2004, Wednesday
Submission of Offers (2:00 to 3:00 p.m.)
(Opening of Tender Box - 3:00 p.m.)

Site No.	TCT No.	Lot No.	Area (Sq.m.)	Indicative Price
55	T-297151	Parcel 7, Lot-3	41,501	6,225,000.00

Offers will be received, opened and tabulated in the presence of offerors following the assigned schedule.
Interested parties may request for the duly authenticated copies of the Offer for Sale documents for a nominal fee of P300.00 from the PMO Marketing Office, 104 Gamboa Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City.
For more information, please call Mr. John DF. Baldemor of the PMO Marketing Department at 817-6331 or 817-8762

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
DR. JOSE FABELLA MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
Manila

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Dr. Jose Fabella Memorial Hospital invites accredited bidders / suppliers to bid for the following:

	ABC	PRE-BID CONFERENCE (2:00 p.m.)	BID OPENING
I. Service Contract: I. Laundry Services	P2,500,000.00	Nov. 15, 2004	Nov. 26, 2004 @ 2:00 p.m.
II. Supply and delivery of I. Foodstuffs	4,006,429.00	Nov. 17, 2004	Dec. 1, 2004 @ 2:00 p.m.
2. Medical Gases Miscellaneous, Linen and Laundry Supplies	P5,008,708.00 382,743.00	Nov. 18, 2004 – do –	Dec. 2, 2004 @ 2:00 p.m. – do –
3. Medical Supplies Dermatological / Disinfectant / Antiseptic Supplies	6,972,989.00 225,444.00	Nov. 18, 2004 – do –	Dec. 6, 2004 @ 1:30 p.m. – do –
4. Laboratory Supplies Radiology / Ultrasound / Internist Supplies	1,769,143.00 139,905.00	Nov. 18, 2004 – do –	Dec. 7, 2004 @ 1:30 p.m. – do –
5. Drugs and Medicines	37,380,000.00	Nov. 19, 2004	Dec. 9, 2004 @ 1:30 p.m.
6. Various Med. Equipment	2,201,078.00	Nov. 22, 2004	Dec. 14, 2004 @ 2:00 p.m.
III. Equipment Rental: 1. Ventilator (8 units) 2. ABG Machine (1 unit)	1,440,000.00 1,140,000.00	Nov. 24, 2004	Dec. 15, 2004 @ 2:00 p.m.

Bid documents may be secured from the BAC Secretariat starting October 25, 2004 up to November 12, 2004 upon payment of the required non-refundable fee. For inquiries, please contact the Secretariat at tel. nos. 735-7144; 734-55-61 loc. 109.

All of the above activities shall be held at the DJFMH Reception Hall.

All bids must be accompanied by bid security as specified in RA 9184.

The DJFMH reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waived any required formality and award the contract to any bidder whose proposal as evaluated is the most advantageous to the government.

The DJFMH-BAC assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or losses that may be incurred in the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made

(Sgd.) MARIE THERESE A. PACABIS
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – Oct. 25 & Nov. 2, 2004)

PMAP-Bulacan Chapter holds 7th GMM

THE PERSONNEL Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP-Bulacan Chapter) will be holding its 7th GMM-General Membership Meeting and Election of Officers for 2005 at BPC- Bulacan Polytechnic College in Bulihan, City of Malolos, on 29 October 2004 starting 1:00 PM as announced by its President Maximino "Toti" G. Par. PMAP -the organization of human resource management practitioners is dedicated to the development of the province of Bulacan through meaningful human resources management and development in the province's industry and business mainly through the creation of more jobs. Par is encouraging all its members to attend and participate in this particular undertaking for the continued success and growth of PMAP in the province. Also Par is urging companies and other business entrepreneurs to join in this organization for a better, harmonious employee-employer relationship through effective human resource management thus avoiding if not eliminating labor disputes in the province. Mabuhay to PMAP-Bulacan Chapter. For particulars you may call at 044-670-2323 / 794-0755 / 794-1255

2GO: A new name has risen

IMAGINE a larger-than-life brand launch. This one is it.

In a momentous event night of Oct. 15 at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel, Aboitiz Transport System unveiled its new brand 2GO for all of its freight businesses, which includes freight, express, logistics and solutions. 2GO was launched in a colorful, energetic and roaring one-hour presentation that engaged over 500 business luminaries from top 100 corporations, as well as officials from various government agencies.

2GO, in a unique and surprising reveal, was unveiled in a colorful staging highlighted with dancers suspended in the air, racing motorbikes, and a Magenta-painted Formula 3 car, symbolizing its promise of action, precision, speed and passion.

2GO brand promise revealed

"Although we have been in the cargo business close to 100 years, we witness tonight the birth of a new name for our freight business group," revealed Endika Aboitiz, president and chief executive officer of Aboitiz Transport System (ATS) during his speech at the 2GO launch.

Aboitiz added, "2GO is simple, clear, distinctive, Filipino, fresh and creative. We need to simplify and integrate our brands into one…one brand, as well as one service."

The journey in search of a new identity has led the group to have a clearer understanding of the transport needs of its customers.

2GO will provide simplified business solutions under one name, with a unified promise and a consistent brand experience.

"You will trust our brand only when we deliver an experience that is consistent with your expectations. Our challenge is to meet your expectations with passion… 2GO will take us where we want 2GO," Aboitiz stressed.

One integrated brand

During the event, the four units of the freight business group were presented expounding on the brand promise, "a passion for delivery."

"2GO gives you the most customized and streamlined solutions for your business needs… 2GO is designed to meet the most stringent deadlines, the toughest requirements, the impossible."

"2GO assures a cost effective, streamlined distribution process to reduce service complexity," Aboitiz said.

Susan Valdez, EVP-freight said during the program, "we want to be your preferred partner delivering ways to help you grow your business further. With our vast network coverage, and a large fleet at your disposal, we are able to transport containerized and rolling cargo to any destination on time."

"In our case, we needed a new identity that will support and inspire our direction to integrate and consolidate our resources. Given our strength in consolidation and distribution, Express will focus on the less container load business," Efren Uy, COO-Express, added.

Klaus Schroeder, CEO and president, logistics, then stated, "Logistics, on the other hand, will continue to strengthen our global links so that existing freight, solutions and express customers who have global distribution requirements will deal with only one entity, thus enjoying the advantages of a seamless supply chain."

"Solutions, this group will focus on finding new ways of doing business for both our internal and external customers," Mike Camahort, SVP and COO, solutions, explained. "Under this new division is a new milestone in the domestic shipping industry-Road RORO terminal system (RRTS) will provide a superior yet simple, self-driven service that will give our customers the power to control the movement of their products," Camahort elaborated.

2GO signature

2GO was fashioned in correspondence to global industry trend of creating short and vigorous brand names. The 2GO brand name was adopted to contain the "power of 3" letters, save for its unique alphanumeric tag.

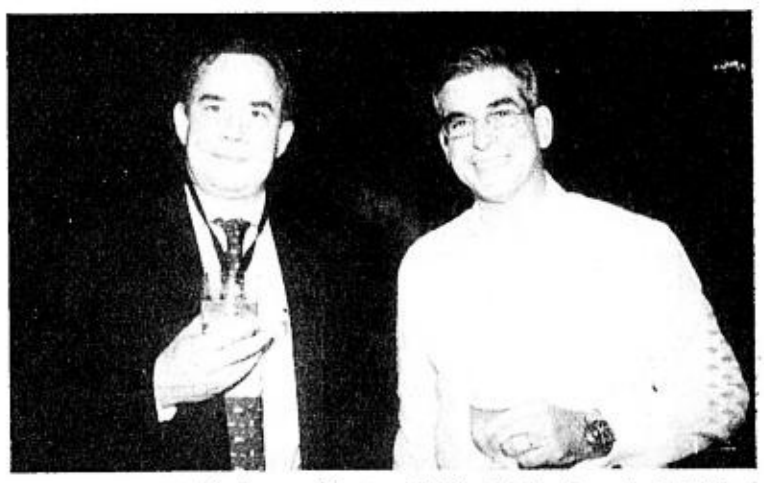
2GO is easy to pronounce, easy to remember and easy to apply visually. It is less likely to be misspelled or mispronounced. 2GO sounds hi-tech, trendy and will definitely stand out in the industries it is in.

Magenta, a most uncommon color used for a brand logo, is 2GO's signature hue. When asked about the brand's look, Aboitiz said, "We want something attention-grabbing…something that is unique to the brand and to the industries it revolves."

Passion for delivery

The new brand 2GO represents a vision. "We have a lot of work ahead of us in terms of changing mindsets and attitude. The most important aspect of the brand is the people and the delivery of our brand promise. This is our biggest challenge. Our people must consciously have our brand in mind when serving our customers," Aboitiz said.

ENDIKA Aboitiz, Aboitiz Transport System president and CEO



SABIN Aboitiz, Aboitiz One president and CEO and Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala, Ayala Group president and CEO

BOBBY Romulo, ATS board member and Jon Ramon Aboitiz, ATS board chair

PRESIDENTIAL daughter Luli Macapagal-Arroyo

Freight group rebranded

ABOITIZ Transport System (ATS) recently launched 2GO, its new brand for all its freight businesses, which includes Express, Logistics and Solutions.

The new name, according to Endika Aboitiz, ATS CEO and president, embodies action, precision, speed and passion. "2GO is designed to meet the most stringent deadlines, the toughest requirements, the impossible," he added.

2GO introduces 1-3-6, a new promise that gives time-defined and time-priced services, getting products to the consumers within 1, 3, or 6 days.

2GO launched its Roro (roll on, roll off) terminal service to address specialized needs. Also known as RRTS (roll on, roll off terminal system), this simplified self-driven service gives greater control over the movement of the consumer goods.

More, 2GO will launch Asmira in 2005—"a new freight operating system that will help bring our processes and services closer together to help you deal with the changing logistics needs of your customers."

"You will trust our brand only when we deliver an experience that is consistent with your expectations. Our challenge is to meet your expectations with passion… 2GO will take us where we want 2GO," Aboitiz stressed.

SGH-E800 elevates Samsung to new heights

SAMSUNG's SGH-E800 further propels the Korean electronics giant to a loftier position in the hand held phone industry with the phone's recent unveiling at the NBC Tent that attracted some of the country's leading personalities.

A number of E800 units were prominently displayed as their novel features were enumerated on plasma screens of different sizes. These include an almost automatic slide-up mechanism, a 300 K pixel level VGA camera with a mirror at the back for self-portrait photos, the Noise Cancellation and Voice Clarity functions, and 64 polyphonic ringtones. A small, compact phone with an outstanding tactile grip, the E800 fits easily into the palm of the hand.

Prominent names in the business community, politics, media, entertainment, fashion, and sports plus dealers and guests of Samsung Electronics Philippines Corp (Sepco) were gathered together to witness the grand launch.

Former President Fidel V. Ramos, Korean Ambassador Yu Myung-Hwan, Korean Embassy Minister Shin Gil-Sou, Justice Artemio Panganiban, Justice Presbeterio Velasco, Rep. Monico Fuentevella, Rep. Miles Roces, Philippine Sports Commission Chair Eric Buhain, National Youth Commission Chair Bam Aquino and international star Lea Salonga were among those who graced the event.

Also spotted were Tweety de Leon, Apples Aberin, Franz Pumaren, Mark Cardona, Joseph Yeo, and Luis Alandy. On hand to entertain the guests were Isay Alvarez, Robert Seña, and Kuh Ledesma.

"To meet the user's demand for unique designs and fully-featured communication, we are continuously introducing innovative products to the market," Eom says. "Following our clamshell designed mobile phones, the slide designs will maintain Samsung's design leadership."

The spotlight however remained on the SGH-E800. After a mini-fashion show which not only exhibited smooth strutting models but smoothly functioning SGH-E800 units, Eom formally introduced Samsung's new mobile phone product in spectacular fashion symbolic of its top of the line quality and its capability to propel Samsung to new heights.

A giant remote-controlled SGH-E800 cellphone model made its grand entrance by slowly rising from the back of the NBC Tent and hovering above the crowd to everyone's delight and amazement.

For several minutes, the crowd was enthralled by the sight of the giant cellphone just as they were awed by its excellent features. Indeed, advanced cellular phone technology has arrived in the form of SGH-E800, cementing Samsung Electronics Philippines' foothold in the industry.

SAMSUNG VP for ICT Maeng Dal Bae, Rep. Miles Roces and Samsung president and CEO Sang Youl Eom

UAAP champ De La Salle University star players Mac Mac Cardona and Joseph Yeo

A giant remote-controlled SGH-E800 cellphone model made its grand entrance by slowly rising from the back of the NBC Tent and hovering above the crowd to everyone's delight and amazement.

PIA GUANIO and RJ Ledesma

MAENG Dal Bae, Lea Salonga and Sang Youl Eom

APBC elects PNB's Lorenzo Tan president

THE PHILIPPINE banking industry scored a major victory in establishing its standing and credibility in the face of its international counterparts with the election of Philippine National Bank president and CEO Lorenzo V. Tan as president of the prestigious Asia-Pacific Bankers Club (APBC) over the weekend. Tan was given the mandate by the 65 member banks of the APBC, coming from 13 countries across the region. The PNB president succeeds Chatsiri Sophopanick, president and CEO of Bangkok Bank for the post.

The election of APBC's officers for 2005 was the culmination of the APBC general meeting held in Bangkok, Thailand last week. Among those who participated in the meeting were the global CEOs of prominent financial institutions including DBS, Jackson Tai, HSBC, Maybank, OCBC and ANZ Banks. The APBC is an organization of influential banks from Japan, Korea, China, Hong Kong, Singapore, and Malaysia, among others that provides a valuable forum for fostering mutual understanding among member banks in East Asia and the Pacific region.

As a result of Tan's election, the Philippines will play host to the APBC conference next year with the Philippine National Bank taking the lead role organizing the international event.

Lorenzo V. Tan joined PNB in 2002 and is largely credited for the success of the bank's Good Bank-Bad Bank five-year rehabilitation program. After six successive years of losses PNB was able to do a financial turnaround last year, ending 2003 with a P168-million net income. The feat places the bank way ahead of its own recovery program. This year, PNB is well on its way to hitting its more ambitious bottom line target of P205 million. The 43-year old bank president was the recipient of the Ten Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) award in 1999 for banking. Prior to joining PNB, he was president and CEO of the United Coconut Planters Bank.

100 SEEDLINGS FOR A CAUSE

Iglesia ni Cristo (INC) Minister Larry Buenaventura (left) of the Ecclesiastical District of Tarlac receives one of the 100 Mahogany and Narra seedlings from the Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) represented by public relations officer Roy Victor Rosales (right). The seedlings will be used by the INC as part of its tree-planting project inside the buffer zone of the sanitary landfill in Kalangitan Resettlement, Barangay Cutcut, Capas, Tarlac. Looking on is INC Minister Demie Garcia.

BDO BRANCH INAUGURATION

Banco de Oro Universal Bank (BDO) recently relocated its Makati SM branch to Shoemart Annex Building, Ayala Center, Makati. Banking hours are still from 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mondays to Sundays: Present during the inauguration together with the branch officers and staff are Felicidad Sy (front, 4th from left), Jaime Yu, EVP of branch banking (back, 4th from right), Betty Bagsit, region head (front, 2nd from right), Rene Tuason, branch manager (front, 3rd from right) and Dolly Magsalin, area head (2nd from right).

Sara Lee Direct Selling: Daring, dazzling at 12

SARA Lee Direct Selling Philippines continues to dare and dazzle as it celebrates its 12th anniversary this October.

Thanks to its pioneering and brave approach in the direct-selling arena, the company continues to give its ever-growing list of satisfied dealers and customers more than a dozen reasons to cheer this year. More than just being known as a reputable provider of world-class consumer products, Sara Lee Direct Selling Philippines initially established itself as a prestigious name in the realm of beauty and fashion by aligning itself with the core values that Filipino consumers adhere to-taste, style and substance.

It's not surprising how the company started out and eventually gained headway via its Playtex intimate apparel line and Colour Collection cosmetic brands. Even then, Sara Lee Direct Selling breathed life in the booming cosmetics and intimate apparel markets as it came up with products that were more attuned to the Filipina's unique physical makeup. It was a significant breakthrough in consumer marketing. Finally, here were products that Filipinas could call their own.

No less than top celebrities and revered beauty icons such as Sharon Cuneta and Charlene Gonzales gave their nod to Sara Lee's products when they endorsed its cosmetics lines during the '90s. And as a further testament to longevity, the enduring Megastar renewed her ties with the Sara Lee family, endorsing its cosmetics, skincare and fragrance lines.

But through the years, the company has proven its worth not just through its fitting toast to womanhood. Today, the direct-selling giant has also carved its niche in the business sector as a formidable force that has helped shape the future of entrepreneurship in the country.

Since its humble beginnings during the early '90s, Sara Lee Direct Selling has been able to expand from five to more than 80 branches at present-thereby providing a very viable means of livelihood to budding entrepreneurs. Formerly named House of Sara Lee, the company was also the most successful direct-selling business that started during the early '90s-latching its roster of prestigious brands to a team of dedicated and hard-working dealers whose numbers reached an exponential rate as they spread far and wide across the country.

Today, Sara Lee Direct Selling, with its bold and beautiful outlook, furthers its toast to women by refocusing on its even loftier goal of addressing not just their personal needs, but also the basic essentials of their growing families. With its renewed commitment to the good life, the company has boosted its product line with an even wider range of products for men, kids and the entire family-including home care, fragrances and nutritional supplements.

And these aren't just ordinary brands. True to its vision of providing world-class products to Filipino consumers, Sara Lee Direct Selling continues to provide such internationally acclaimed megabrands such as Hanes, Champion apparel, Zwitsal baby care products, Nutrimetics skincare line and even the one and only Wonderbra, which pioneered the push-up bra revolution.

Even with the advent of emerging trends, the Sara Lee lifestyle continues to find its way through millions of satisfied consumers the world over. By word of mouth and through the testimonials of respected celebrity endorsers and the aggressive efforts of its dealers, Sara Lee's commitment to the fabulous and glamorous life continues to be heard.

With twelve years of unparalleled performance in the direct-selling realm, Sara Lee Direct Selling Philippines promises more innovative product introductions and exciting incentive schemes in the years to come.

For inquiries, call hotline 810-5402, or e-mail customer.relations@saraleedirectselling.ph

Ebike makes Marikina 'bike-friendly city'

WHILE traffic education and enforcement remains a nationwide dilemma, the progressive city of Marikina may have finally discovered the most efficient, economical and ingenious way of easing perennial road problems: Cycling.

The establishment of Marikina's Bikeways Office in 2001, started by MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando, who was then the City Mayor, has led to bike-friendly roads and routes that encourage citizens to take the two-wheeled vehicles instead of commuting through manageable distances. There is currently a biking path of 18 km that stretches around the major thoroughfares of Marikina, and this pilot initiative is proving to everyone that the system could actually work.

Replicating the popularity and preference for bicycles and other non-motorized transport in Asian countries like Vietnam and China is the vision of Marikina, said Lota Contreras, OIC of the Bikeways Office. "Biking is an alternative transport mode for intra-city trips, and aside from efficiency and fitness benefits, it is also environment-friendly," she said.

Inaugurated in February 2002, the 18-km cycling route was designed to be safe, well paved and lighted, with appropriate road signs, informative directions and parking facilities. It will also connect strategic areas in the city to major transport terminals such as the LRT2 stations and urban facilities such as factories, schools, hospitals, market areas, and shopping malls. "The original plan requires 66 km of cycling lanes, so there's still a lot of work to be done. As of the meantime, we are creating awareness and promoting the 'culture of cycling', and we hope other cities in Metro Manila will follow," Contreras added.

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APBC elects PNB's Lorenzo Tan president

THE PHILIPPINE banking industry scored a major victory in establishing its standing and credibility in the face of its international counterparts with the election of Philippine National Bank president and CEO Lorenzo V. Tan as president of the prestigious Asia-Pacific Bankers Club (APBC) over the weekend. Tan was given the mandate by the 65 member-banks of the APBC, coming from 13 countries across the region. The PNB president succeeds Chatsiri Sophopanick, president and CEO of Bangkok Bank for the post.

The election of APBC's officers for 2005 was the culmination of the APBC general meeting held in Bangkok, Thailand last week. Among those who participated in the meeting were the global CEOs of prominent financial institutions including DBS, Jackson Tai, HSBC, Maybank, OCBC and ANZ Banks. The APBC is an organization of influential banks from Japan, Korea, China, Hong Kong, Singapore, and Malaysia, among others that provides a valuable forum for fostering mutual understanding among member banks in East Asia and the Pacific region.

As a result of Tan's election, the Philippines will play host to the APBC conference next year with the Philippine National Bank taking the lead role organizing the international event.

Lorenzo V. Tan joined PNB in 2002 and is largely credited for the success of the bank's Good Bank-Bad Bank five-year rehabilitation program. After six successive years of losses PNB was able to do a financial turnaround last year, ending 2003 with a P168-million net income. The feat places the bank way ahead of its own recovery program. This year, PNB is well on its way to hitting its more ambitious bottom line target of P205 million. The 43-year old bank president was the recipient of the Ten Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) award in 1999 for banking. Prior to joining PNB, he was president and CEO of the United Coconut Planters Bank.

100 SEEDLINGS FOR A CAUSE

Iglesia ni Cristo (INC) Minister Larry Buenaventura (left) of the Ecclesiastical District of Tarlac receives one of the 100 Mahogany and Narra seedlings from the Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) represented by public relations officer Roy Victor Rosales (right). The seedlings will be used by the INC as part of its tree-planting project inside the buffer zone of the sanitary landfill in Kalangitan Resettlement, Barangay Cutcut, Capas, Tarlac. Looking on is INC Minister Demie Garcia.

BDO BRANCH INAUGURATION

Banco de Oro Universal Bank (BDO) recently relocated its Makati SM branch to Shoemart Annex Building, Ayala Center, Makati. Banking hours are still from 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mondays to Sundays: Present during the inauguration together with the branch officers and staff are Felicidad Sy (front, 4th from left), Jaime Yu, EVP of branch banking (back, 4th from right), Betty Bagsit, region head (front, 2nd from right), Rene Tuason, branch manager (front, 3rd from right) and Dolly Magsalin, area head (2nd from right).

Sara Lee Direct Selling: Daring, dazzling at 12

SARA Lee Direct Selling Philippines continues to dare and dazzle as it celebrates its 12th anniversary this October.

Thanks to its pioneering and brave approach in the direct-selling arena, the company continues to give its ever-growing list of satisfied dealers and customers more than a dozen reasons to cheer this year. More than just being known as a reputable provider of world-class consumer products, Sara Lee Direct Selling Philippines initially established itself as a prestigious name in the realm of beauty and fashion by aligning itself with the core values that Filipino consumers adhere to-taste, style and substance.

It's not surprising how the company started out and eventually gained headway via its Playtex intimate apparel line and Colour Collection cosmetic brands. Even then, Sara Lee Direct Selling breathed life in the booming cosmetics and intimate apparel markets as it came up with products that were more attuned to the Filipina's unique physical makeup. It was a significant breakthrough in consumer marketing. Finally, here were products that Filipinas could call their own.

No less than top celebrities and revered beauty icons such as Sharon Cuneta and Charlene Gonzales gave their nod to Sara Lee's products when they endorsed its cosmetics lines during the '90s. And as a further testament to longevity, the enduring Megastar renewed her ties with the Sara Lee family, endorsing its cosmetics, skincare and fragrance lines.

But through the years, the company has proven its worth not just through its fitting toast to womanhood. Today, the direct-selling giant has also carved its niche in the business sector as a formidable force that has helped shape the future of entrepreneurship in the country.

Since its humble beginnings during the early '90s, Sara Lee Direct Selling has been able to expand from five to more than 80 branches at present-thereby providing a very viable means of livelihood to budding entrepreneurs. Formerly named House of Sara Lee, the company was also the most successful direct-selling business that started during the early '90s-latching its roster of prestigious brands to a team of dedicated and hard-working dealers whose numbers reached an exponential rate as they spread far and wide across the country.

Today, Sara Lee Direct Selling, with its bold and beautiful outlook, furthers its toast to women by refocusing on its even loftier goal of addressing not just their personal needs, but also the basic essentials of their growing families. With its renewed commitment to the good life, the company has boosted its product line with an even wider range of products for men, kids and the entire family-including home care, fragrances and nutritional supplements.

And these aren't just ordinary brands. True to its vision of providing world-class products to Filipino consumers, Sara Lee Direct Selling continues to provide such internationally acclaimed megabrands such as Hanes, Champion apparel, Zwitsal baby care products, Nutrimetics skincare line and even the one and only Wonderbra, which pioneered the push-up bra revolution.

Even with the advent of emerging trends, the Sara Lee lifestyle continues to find its way through millions of satisfied consumers the world over. By word of mouth and through the testimonials of respected celebrity endorsers and the aggressive efforts of its dealers, Sara Lee's commitment to the fabulous and glamorous life continues to be heard.

With twelve years of unparalleled performance in the direct-selling realm, Sara Lee Direct Selling Philippines promises more innovative product introductions and exciting incentive schemes in the years to come.

For inquiries, call hotline 810-5402, or e-mail customer.relations@saraleedirectselling.ph

Ebike makes Marikina 'bike-friendly city'

WHILE traffic education and enforcement remains a nationwide dilemma, the progressive city of Marikina may have finally discovered the most efficient, economical and ingenious way of easing perennial road problems: Cycling.

The establishment of Marikina's Bikeways Office in 2001, started by MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando, who was then the City Mayor, has led to bike-friendly roads and routes that encourage citizens to take the two-wheeled vehicles instead of commuting through manageable distances. There is currently a biking path of 18 km that stretches around the major thoroughfares of Marikina, and this pilot initiative is proving to everyone that the system could actually work.

Replicating the popularity and preference for bicycles and other non-motorized transport in Asian countries like Vietnam and China is the vision of Marikina, said Lota Contreras, OIC of the Bikeways Office. "Biking is an alternative transport mode for intra-city trips, and aside from efficiency and fitness benefits, it is also environment-friendly," she said.

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BUSINESS

BIR, BOC to review telcos' VAT claims

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue has linked up with the Bureau of Customs to scrutinize the huge input VAT (value-added tax) claims of telecommunication companies.

Revenue Deputy Commissioner Kim Henares said the telcos had pointed to their huge importation of capital equipment for their huge input VAT credits. They said the cost of the imports already included VAT.

Henares said that checking the VAT collection from imports of the telcos would help the BIR determine the accuracy of their input VAT claims.

"We are checking whether their input VAT claims are reflected in the customs collection. An amount can only be considered as input VAT if actual payment is made and remitted to the government, or in this case to the BOC," Henares told reporters in a briefing last Friday.

BIR data showed that from 2000 to 2002, the government had not been able to collect VAT from 18 telcos, including the biggest industry players Smart Communications and Globe Telecom. This was because their input VAT claims were higher than their output VAT.

In 2000, their combined output VAT reached only P8.277 billion, while their input VAT amounted to P9.48 billion, resulting in P1.54 billion in excess VAT credits that were either carried over to the following year or were used to apply for refunds. In 2001, their output VAT stood at P10.479 billion, while their input VAT reached P19.019 billion. In 2002, their output VAT was at P14.505 billion compared with their input VAT of P18.272 billion.

It was only last year that the government began collecting VAT from them. The telcos paid P606 million in VAT last year. The VAT collection was a result of the P15.24 billion worth of output VAT and P14.7 billion worth of input VAT.

Henares said Smart and Globe had said they were expected to remit VAT starting this year because they were not anymore expected to import huge volume of capital equipment.

NFA sees lower rice imports

By Christine A. Gaylican

WITH a projected record rice output this year, the country's importation of the staple is seen to decline by 30 percent next year.

National Food Authority Administrator Gregorio Y. Tan Jr. said the country would likely import only 700,000 metric tons of rice next year, down from one million metric tons worth $230 million this year.

He said the NFA's rice inventory was good for 90 to 100 days based on a national consumption rate of 28,000 metric tons per day.

"The country still needs to import 15 to 25 more days of inventory this year to build up a stock for 115 to 125 days," he said.

He said that if the NFA's ending inventory reached 115 to 125 days by Dec. 31, the country might no longer have to import next year.

The Philippine government has been negotiating to retain its quantitative restrictions on rice imports.

As a WTO member, the country needs to negotiate and justify to other WTO members its plan to keep its QRs on rice as tariff barriers even for agriculture products are scheduled to be reduced by July 2005.

The country's WTO trading partners, including Thailand, are asking the Philippine government to determine a fixed volume of the imports in exchange for continued imposition of the QRs on rice.

One Gateway Place

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Beside Robinsons Place Pioneer Mall

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So stroll leisurely at the Mall. Relax and unwind. Let go of worry, anxiety, and pressure. There's no need to rush home. At One Gateway Place, home is just a minute away.

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BUSINESS Monday

Business Features Editor
Margie Quimpo-Espino

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BAD GOVERNANCE AND POLICIES DO

'Too many people' doesn't cause poverty–economists

THE PHILIPPINES has an overpopulation problem, say some pundits. Why? They claim that a large, rapidly growing population causes more poverty. Thus, they are advocating a government-led "population control" program to reduce poverty.

This is based on a summary of a paper titled "Too many people doesn't cause poverty, bad governance and policies do," written by members of the University of Asia & the Pacific.

The authors are Emilio T. Antonio, Ronilo Balbieran, Jovi Dacanay, Roberto de Vera, Stephen Huang,, Maia Tyche King, Winstong Stan Padojinog, Cherrylyn Rodolfo, Kimberly San Agustin, Leandro Tan, Cid Terosa, Peter Lee U, Bernado M. VIllegas.

The paper's summary states that the claim of population-control proponents that "too many people" means "more poor people" is based on the following assertions:

(1) A larger population worsens poverty;

ECONOMISTS from the University of Asia and the Pacific say available statistics and scientific studies do not support the claim that "too many people" means "more poor people."

(2) Higher population densities mean lower personal incomes;

(3) Higher population growth leads to lower economic growth;

(4) A larger population means more hungry and malnourished people;

(5) A larger population means less funds for education;

(6) Larger families are poor families;

(7) Our population will double in 29 years. They also have an eighth assertion: Instituting a two-child population policy will significantly reduce poverty.

After examining each assertion, we find that available statistics and scientific studies do not support the claim that "too many people" means "more poor people."

Bad governance and bad economic policies, not a large, fast growing population, are the real causes of poverty. More specifically, we have found that:

1.) Poverty remains unaffected or even decreases in a larger or increasing population. Population growth has little or no direct effect on per capita gdp growth. Thus, there is no basis for a policy that aims to reduce population growth to raise per capita GDP growth.

2.) Poverty is usually caused by poor governance and inappropriate and badly implemented economic policies-which leads to corruption, poor tax collections, lack of education and roads, lack of irrigation systems-instead of a large and increasing population.

3.) Parents, rich or poor, have the foresight and "moral restraint" to choose their family size based on child mortalities and economic opportunities. So, as child mortality rates go down, parents will eventually see that it takes fewer births to achieve a desired family size and will adjust their fertility downwards. Increased education for women makes children more expensive to raise. The trend of more families living in cities causes children to cost more and to earn less income. These latter trends drive the tendency of couples to have fewer children.

4.) Aside from having no economic basis, we find that history shows that implementing a two-child policy will place the country in a virtually irreversible course of population decline and ageing and thus the country would be well-advised to avoid it altogether.

5.) The country's population situation-where the labor force is growing faster than the dependent (youth and elderly) population-gives it a wonderful opportunity to reap a demographic dividend (a period of rapid economic growth) that would reduce poverty significantly for the next 35 years. Thus, NGOS, firms and government should focus their efforts on providing these future workers with access to education and training programs to prepare them to take well-paid jobs and on establishing a stable economic and political climate that attracts the needed investments that generates new jobs to match the additional 1.1-1.2 million potential workers each year.

The summary carries a disclaimer that "comments and views expressed in this paper are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not represent any position held by the University of Asia and the Pacific School of Economics."

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SR 1.8 GAS A/T	896,000	100,000	67,788	46,725	37,021	26,672	21,762	18,456
GSX 2.0 GAS A/T	847,000	100,000	63,368	43,678	34,610	24,935	20,345	17,253
GLX 1.8 GAS A/T	807,000	100,000	59,760	41,191	32,642	23,517	19,188	16,270
GL 1.8 GAS M/T	698,000	100,000	49,927	34,413	27,278	19,652	16,035	13,593
DLX 1.8 GAS M/T [15.08%]	663,000	100,000	46,917	32,237	25,555	18,411	15,022	12,734
DLX 1.8 GAS M/T [50%]	663,000	331,500	27,625	18,417	14,094	10,060	8,175	6,895
DLX 2.4 DSL M/T	690,000	100,000	50,991	35,147	27,840	20,057	16,365	13,883

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Women and the environment

MAPping THE FUTURE
Corazon PB. Claudio

WOMEN, who make up 52 percent of the world's population, have a special role in environmental protection—both as top victims of environmental degradation and as leading fighters for environmental conservation.

In most parts of the world, especially in developing countries, women and their children, both born and unborn, are the first to suffer from the ill effects of toxic chemicals in the environment. In rural areas, women often take on the lighter but more risky task of applying fertilizers and pesticides in farms. In urban areas, they work in laboratories and other facilities where indoor air pollution affects their health and, sometimes, the health of their unborn children, more severely than it affects men.

Ten years ago, at the International conference on Population and Development in Cairo, 179 countries recognized that women's health and rights are key to the solution of population, environment, and other development problems. Yet, in many parts of the world, women still have a long way to go in participating in policy and decision making on environmental issues and the broader sustainable development issues that relate environmental, economic and social concerns.

In the Philippines, some of us women are fortunate enough to assume leadership positions in addressing environment and sustainable development concerns and in integrating them in our country's maps for the future, including the most recent plans-the Updated Philippine Agenda 21 and the Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan. My women co-environmentalists, including former Sen. Loren Legarda, Senate Environment Committee Chair Pia Cayetano, former DENR Secretary Bebet Gozun, indefatigable environmentalists Narda Camacho and Sonia Mendoza, new 2004 TOWNS awardee Chin-Chin Gutierrez, educators Alma Madrazo and Nina Galang, and many others work hard to ensure that the environment issue remains a top priority in the development agenda of our country. That is not always an easy task to do, as the environment seems to compete with poverty alleviation, national security, and other priority concerns of the government.

Actually environment is and must be part of all those national priorities. Tapping the natural bounty in our environment in a sustainable manner can eliminate or reduce poverty. But doing so without due regard for environmental conservation will just perpetuate the cycle of poverty. National security is important. But without good health and an environment to enjoy—fresh air, clean water, etc., what is there to protect? Women understand these issues best because they have a more intimate relationship with nature as they nurture plants, seek fuel, collect water, spray insecticides in farms and interact with nature more closely than men. We, thus, hope that our men will hear our plea for more attention and allocation of resources for environmental protection.

But we are also continuing to do our share, in both small and big ways. This week, the first year celebration of the National TOWNS (The Outstanding Women in the Nation's Service) Week, about 60 women from the TOWNS Foundation (the association of past TOWNS Awardees), the Management Association of the Philippines (MAP) and other groups are sharing our visions of the environment and our commitments for action within the next three years. That means at least 60 projects for environmental protection as some of the women are committing to do more than one project-from developing pest-resistant rice varieties to planting thousands of trees to establishing a conservation park.

One of our commitments is to help develop eco-villages for the indigenous people (IP). It is a big task, I know, but we shall start to build one soon with the help of

WOMEN/B2-4

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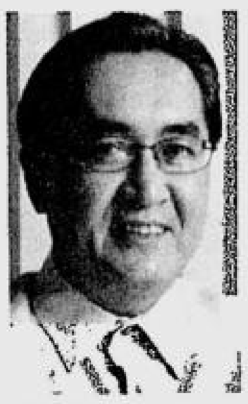
CEOs and brand leaders converge in ad confab

WARNER Manning


GERRY Ablaza

WITHOUT a strong brand, a product could just gather dust on a shelf, a restaurant will have hardly any people inside, and a company will be badly beaten by competition. No one knows this better than the masters of the brand-building game that the Philippine Association of National Advertisers (Pana) has gathered to take part in its convention, with the theme "Building Strong Brands through Inspired Leadership" on Nov. 4 to 5 at the Edsa Shangri-la Hotel.

Leading the list is Sen. Mar Roxas whose name has become the brand for dedicated public service. He may be known to many as "Mr. Palengke." but he has long made a name for himself as a Congressman who passed landmark laws, including the Roxas law, that focuses on needed construction of badly-needed school facilities. Roxas, who holds a degree from the Wharton School of Economics at the University of Pennsylvania, will talk on brand leaders' contribution and responsibility to nation-building.

Branding and nation building are concepts lived by Gerry Ablaza, president and CEO of Globe Telecom, the telecommunications arm of the Ayala group. With Globe Telecom's introduction of the short message system or text messaging, the Philippines has become the world's texting capital. It has also made it possible for Filipinos here and abroad to maintain close ties and opened the floodgates for entrepreneurship across the countryside. For these achievements, Ablaza was described as a "prime example of world-class Filipino brand management," and he was instrumental in increasing the company's subscriber base to nearly 10 million subscribers, and still counting. Globe became the first Filipino telecommunications company to be recognized as the Best GSM Carrier at the Telecom Asia Awards, and he was named Best Asian Telecom CEO at the same awards. Only recently, the telco innovations leader introduced G-Cash, the country's first m-commerce service that acts like a mobile wallet. Ablaza will share his views on how to keep that wellspring of creative ideas flowing through his talk on Leadership through Pioneering Innovations that Expand the Limits of the Telecommunications Industry.

Filipinos have identified so much with Jollibee, the company inspired by the image of a busy bee, that the Philippines has become the only country in the world where McDonald's does not lord it over the fast-food category. Behind the brand success is Ernesto Tanmantiong, Jollibee chief operating officer, who, together with his brothers, built a multinational company out of a two-branch ice cream parlor. Tanmantiong will share some secrets of how to beat multinationals at their own game through his talk on building a brand to emerge as a leader in a multinational-dominated arena.

ERNESTO Tanmantiong

DONNIE TANTOCO

HOWARD Belton

SEN. Mar Roxas

Managing corporate identity

Howard Belton, chair and CEO of Unilever Philippines, has successfully put a multinational company closer to the hearts of Filipinos. This he did by providing the country with excellent products and by investing in projects that help uplift the Filipino community, such as the "Save the Pasig River" movement. Belton, who took over the reins of the Unilever organization in the Philippines in 1998, will talk on managing corporate identity amid change to build stronger brands.

Local practices

Another British national who has successfully carved space in the Filipino psyche for his multinational company is Warner Manning of the HSBC group. True to the group's slogan as the "World's Local Bank," Manning has steered the company to adapt the local business practices and come out ahead. He will explain how he did it with his talk on making a global brand thrive through strategic adaptation of local culture.

Lisa Gokongwei-Cheng, will talk on creating successful brands in uncharted territory of magazine publishing.

Marketing guru Eduardo L. Roberto of the Asian Institute of Management will talk on what makes a winning brand in the eyes of the consumer. Roberto has been a consultant for marketing and marketing research to several leading multinational companies, not only in the Philippines but abroad.

ABS-CBN Foundation Inc.'s Managing Director, Gina Lopez, who started one of the country's most extensive child welfare programs upon being moved by a news report on child abuse will talk on the topic of Brand-building Through Strategic Advocacy.

Rolando B. Hortaleza is the man behind the multi-billion-peso firm, Splash Corp. His family owns the Hortaleza vaciador retail chain, but he moved out and eventually took on the multinationals in the beauty and personal care industry. Splash today beats many of them in a number of categories. Extract, Extraderm, Skin White and Biolink are now an inextricable part of many a woman's beauty regime.

Another scion of a retailing company that decided to try out his own ideas is Bienvenido Tantoco III, and consumers are the better because of it. Tantoco put up the first and most successful hypermarket chain in the country, Shopwise Supercenters. While the family-owned Rustan's department store and supermarkets catered mostly to the upper-income segments, Shopwise went the other way and dedicated itself to serving the mass market. He will be talking on effective customer relationship marketing that propels brands to leadership, drawing from Shopwise's experience with its loyalty programs that expanded its customer base.

Rounding up the formidable list of speakers is advertising veteran Herminio "Minyong" Ordoñez, chair and CEO of Publicis Manila and one of the founders of Basic Advertising. Ordoñez will go down in advertising history as the one who came with memorable ads and taglines, like Jollibee's Langhap-Sarap, Palmolive's Hiyang, DBP's Pamilyang Uliran and Duty Free's Babalik Ka Rin? With a career spanning four decades, Ordoñez knows what makes the Filipino audience tick. He will give the audience a peer into that insight with his talk on how leading brands communicate.

This rare gathering of business leaders is organized by the Philippine Association of National Advertisers or Pana.

Interested participants may register online by visiting www.pana.com.ph/convention2004. Regular registration rate is at P7,000, with a package rate of P6,500 each for three or more delegates from one company. Members of the academe enjoy a special rate of 2,000 and a group rate of P1,800 for three or more delegates. For further details, contact the Pana Secretariat at telephone numbers 8940474 and 8940012.

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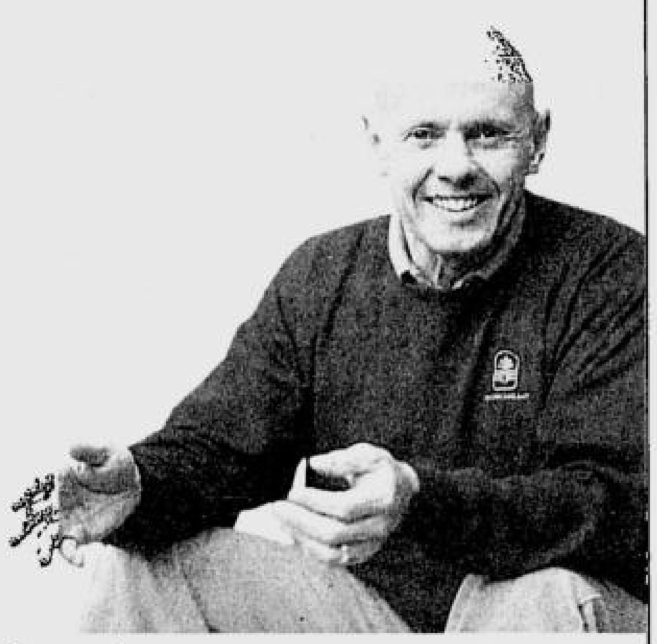

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Jumping from the track into the world of finance

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

WHEN he first introduced himself as being involved in finance, a lot of people, raised their eyebrows.

After all, he was more known as a "brawn" than as a "brain." Bunevacz, who has an American father and a Filipina mother was known as an athlete. He was a member of the Philippine National Athletic Team. He also became a TV personality and was also the model in the talked-about vitamin Rogin-E ad, a TV ad where he was in his birthday suit, running faster than a horse.

Later on he became known as the partner of Anjanette Abayari, a Filipina-American actress known for her physique and her drug bust. The last time he was in the news was during his wedding to actress and talent manager Jessica Rodriguez.

But Bunevacz has since shed his sweat pants. Today, he sports a different image—one that dons suits and drives a P10-million car (his only passion, he insists), a home in a fancy village in the south, and a relatively relaxed lifestyle.

He now heads several companies, but the one that gives him his bread and butter, plus icing and gravy is Strategic and Comprehensive Consultants Inc.

What Bunevacz does these days is encourage local governments to float bonds to raise money for their projects. His firm looks into the viability of the project being planned by the local government; then they look for funding for the project. The process, however, involves several resolutions from the Sanggunian before they can start tapping funding. As payment, his firm gets a percentage, about two percent, of the amount in loans they raise.

Bunevacz says his firm, which is barely a year old, packaged the P500 million bond flotation of Pasay City. The float is the biggest municipal bond flotation so far in the country. It was used for the rehabilitation of the Pasay City public market in Libertad into a modern commercial hub. He says the amount was raised from three institutions—PCI Capital Corp., PNB Capital and Veterans Bank.

DAVID J. Bunevacz trades in track suits for pinstripes

He also did San Juan's P390 million bond float.

As to how he got into the business, Bunevacz says he got wind of the flotation.being planned by San Juan but the one packaging it was having difficulty getting financing. He met with the group and eventually bought their firm and raised the money.

Bunevacz admits people still recognize him and give him a second look. Women employees still ask that their photos be taken with him. And this he admits helps.

All over the country, the firm

JUMPING/ B2-4

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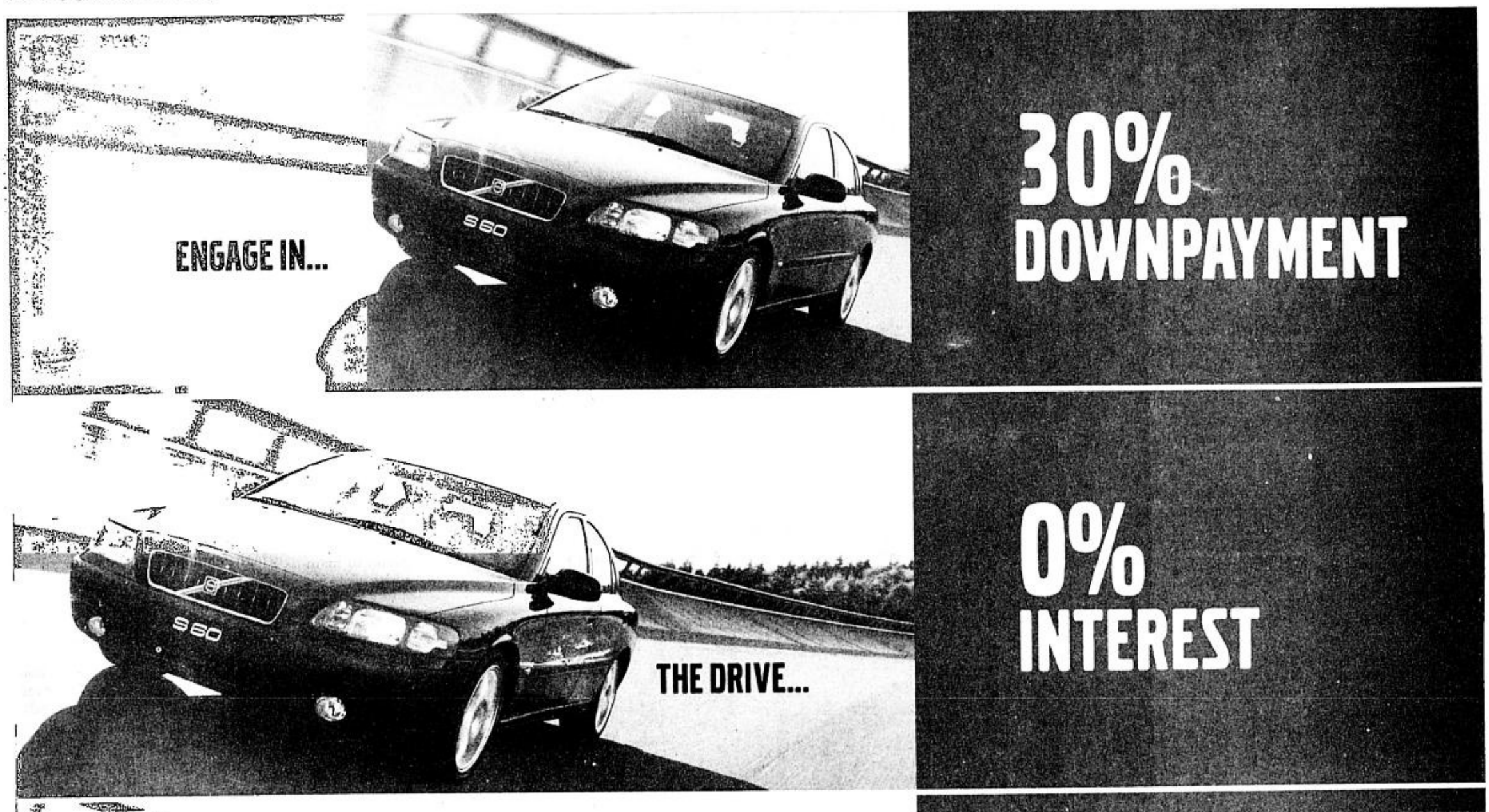

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Success can come sweet and easy

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

AN ENTREPRENEUR'S wish list will likely read something like this: the business must be easy to learn, will rake in a lot of money, does not require much capital and fun to do.

According to Alexis D. Pineda, general manager of Chemworld, that wish is granted by the perfume and fragrances business.

He says perfume making is so easy to learn that a 10-year-old who just accompanied his mother to the seminar, ended up making batches for himself, which he sold to classmates.

A former franchise holder, on the other hand, went into it full blast because he saw better opportunities in the selling of scents.

So goes for a lady who used to make a living making soaps, and just wanted to learn perfume making to expand her product line.

Perfumes and colognes now comprise the bulk of her products. Not the soaps.

Pineda says that for a minimum investment of just P3,000, which would go to the purchase of 10 fragrances at 10-15 ml each, bottles and raw materials, an entrepreneur could make 1,500 ml of finished products, or 150 pieces of 10-ml fragrances that easily sell at P75 each.

This would bring in a gross revenue of P11,250 for a day's work.

After deducting the cost of labor, and some investment in boxes, labels, packaging and delivery, the investor would still end up with at least P9,000 in profit.

Pineda says that despite the mushrooming of companies selling colognes and fragrances, there is still room for more entrepreneurs, because Filipinos all love to smell good, no matter how poor.

He estimates that the fragrance industry rakes in P9 billion in annual revenue. It cuts across all markets, from the babies to adults.

It all starts, he says, from the fragrance oils that come from nature, such as woods, flowers and leaves.

These comprise roughly 10 percent of the finished product, 90 percent is alcohol.

Carefully mix the oil and the alcohol in glass containers, pour into bottles, and voila, the perfume is ready to sell.

Pineda says the competitive advantage lies in the ability of the entrepreneur to mix and match different fragrances.

Some color could be added, or some fixatives to keep the solution stable.

Pineda recommends that the finished products be aged for two weeks just to make sure of the quality.

Keeping the products in a chiller overnight is equivalent to one week of aging in room condition, he says.

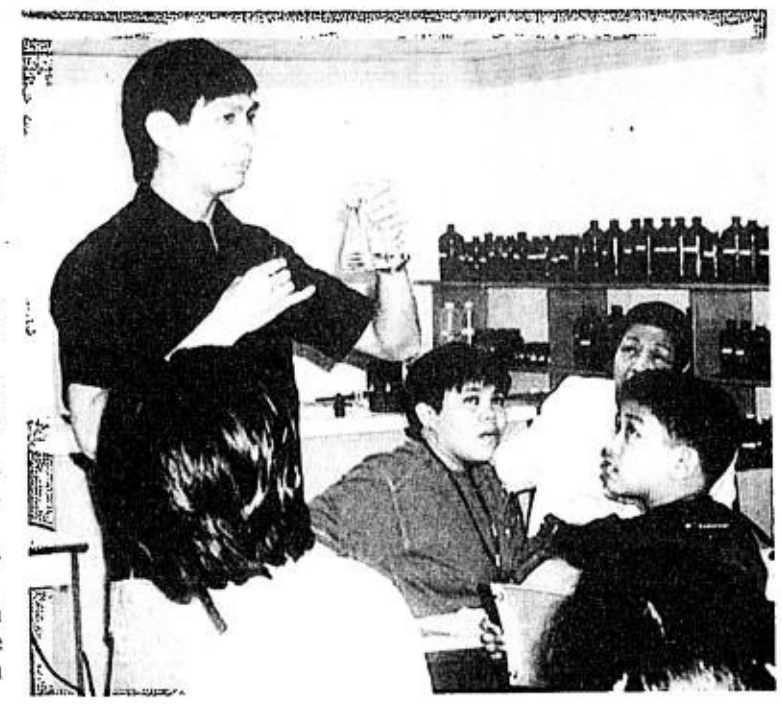
He says the working area need not be air-conditioned, as long as it is clean and well-ventilated.

Chemworld teaches entrepreneurs the basics of perfume making and aromatherapy.

Pineda says the interest has grown so much that Chemworld now holds classes three times a week to accommodate classes of a maximum of 25.

Chemworld also guides entrepreneurs who want to take the next step, and move beyond just manning a home-based business.

(For inquiries, please call 890-9844 to 47, locals 14 and 39).



ALEXIS Pineda, general manager of Chemworld, guides seminar participants during the actual demonstration. Chemworld Fragrance Institute holds an Aromatherapy and Perfume-making seminar every Saturday at its office at the 5th flr. Oppen Bldg., 349 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City.

Jumping from the track into the world of finance

From page B2-3

has about 40 people authorized to offer local governments the packaging of bond floats. Bunevacz' admits his own role is to do the presentations based on the feasibility studies made by his people. After the local government is convinced and gives the necessary resolutions, he moves on to the banks.

So far he says getting financing has been easy as most banks find local government floats attractive.

He admits there is still a lack of enthusiasm and understanding for municipal bond floats. The Local Government Code of 1991 granted local government units greater fiscal autonomy in raising funds for their capital expenditures. The most promising means is issuance or flotation of municipal bonds.

Bonds are principally paper IOUs of the local government. They are promissory notes of indebtedness. As of December 2003, local government shave raised P2.14 billion.

Bunevacz says there is an increasing awareness in these means of raising revenues. He claims he has six pending projects to float bonds worth about P2.5 billion.

Bunevacz has a Bachelor of Science degrees in Economics and Sociology from the University of California, Los Angeles. In 2002, he took some course on finance and investment management also at UCLA.

Recently, he and a group of investors acquired Colossal Mining Corp. which exports iron ore.

His parents and sister still live in the United States.

Women ...

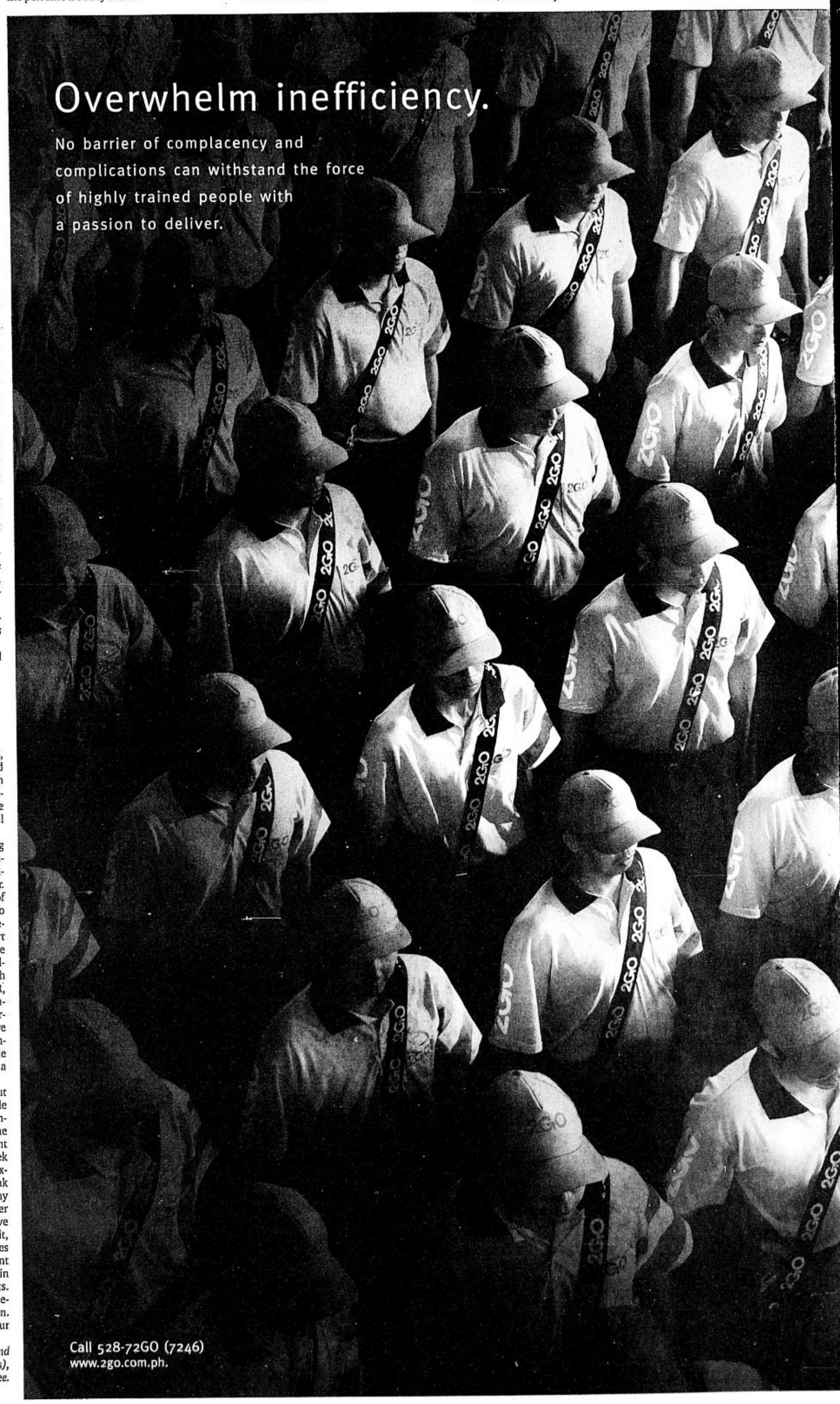
From page B2-2

MAPpers Washington Sycip, Myrna Yao, Howard Belton and Chito Macapagal and Bayer CropScience through Tess Cayton. With their support and those of the 59 other women and the Gawad Kalinga Foundation, we can start building a school-multi-purpose hall and four houses before Christmas.

Our beneficiary and partner in developing this eco-village project is the Dumagat community of San Jose del Monte, Bulacan. Congressman Ed Roquero and his wife, Dr. Roquero, have already committed to be one of our principal partners in this project and to add their own support to it. We have also requested Mayor Angelito Sarmiento to be part of this project and we are confident that he will support it, too, as it is in his city. We are also inviting other organizations to join us, such as, the National Commission on IP, the DENR, and other agencies that can help the Dumagats develop ecologically sound and commercially feasible livelihood projects. We are counting on our fellow MAPpers to help identify and implement projects that can upgrade the economic well-being of the Dumagats in a sustainable way.

Helping to develop this eco-village is but one of the many environment and sustainable development commitments that the 60 women will share through a photo exhibit that the TOWNS Foundation and MAP will present jointly from Wednesday to Saturday this week in the Dusit Hotel Nikko. We are doing the exhibit with the kind support of the hotel, Kodak Philippines, Sanly Digital, DPI Photography Center, Frame It, Toby's Sports, Unilever Philippines, Omni Hauling Services, Brave Design, and others. After this week's exhibit, we bring the set to various state universities and colleges and show it in environment events. We hope you will see the exhibit in Dusit or in one of the other places and events. More than that, we invite you to help implement the commitments of these 60 women. After all, their projects can affect not only our environment but the health of all of us.

The author, TOWNS awardee for Science and Technology (Engineering-Economic Systems), is co-chair of the MAP Environment Committee. Inquiries: mapsec@globenet.com.ph.



Even in dire times, couple puts best foot forward

By Antonio M. Maghirang
Contributor

AT CATMAR Shoes, the hour before noon is an extra busy time. Like most businesses, it is the stretch when orders for the day have to be rushed for afternoon delivery, suppliers present their invoices for payment, important buyers drop by unannounced for a lunch appointment with the owners, Jose "Pepe" Sr. and Carolina Marquez.

These days, luncheon meetings with clients are few and far in between. Thus, the Marquez couple usually wraps things up before noon to rush home to cook lunch for their family and the office staff. This concern for people close to them at home and at work has been a cornerstone of the couple's entrepreneurial odyssey over the past three decades.

Entrepreneurial inclination

CatMar is one of the few still flourishing shoemakers in Marikina City, which most people continue to regard as the country's shoe capital. According to Jose, the shoe industry in Marikina is struggling to keep afloat.

During its peak in the 1980s, the industry boasted of around 20,000 producers; today, about 10 percent of them have closed shop or moved on to more profitable ventures while most of the remaining 90 percent can barely make ends meet.

"I stay on partly because my workers depend on me for their livelihood. Shoemaking is all they know. If I close down this business tomorrow, I'd be taking away not only jobs from about 40 people but also food for their families and perhaps work for my suppliers' workers, too."

It is not likely that CatMar Shoes will shut down anytime soon. As one of the regular subcontractor-suppliers to Rusty Lopez for over a decade now, the company continues to get orders of at least 120,000 pairs of shoes per quarter, or roughly 10,000 pairs a week.

The enterprising couple has leased a bigger location near Sumulong Highway, the main road to busy Cubao from rustic Antipolo, and installed more shoemaking machines in the new factory only late last year. They expect to increase their production output and worker productivity starting this year.

Pepe was the only boy in a family of three born and raised in Marikina by parents who were employed as shoemakers. His mother was an upper-maker while his father was a *sapatero* or cobbler in the same shop. His parents eventually put aside some savings to bankroll their own backyard shoemaking business with a workshop under their house. The production activities stirred young Jose's interest and he eventually found his calling as a footwear designer.

Carol learned shoemaking in much the same way, being exposed to the business at a young age. She was one of seven children of a shoemaking couple in Marikina who scraped enough as shoe shop workers to finally go on their own. "I earned my baon," she recalls with a smile. She worked on and off at the shop up until she got married.

His college years were equally exciting and challenging for the young Pepe. He was a sophomore at the University Belt in 1972 when he got caught up in the ferment of youth activism. Later that year, the country went under martial rule.

Instead of going back to school, Pepe partnered with an enterprising relative to open a small shoe shop in Marikina. Their partnership arrangement was simple enough: Jose designed the shoes and his partner made the samples. Pepe would then present the samples to big department stores like Syvels, Fairmart and ShoeMart to secure firm orders, which the partners then passed on to larger shoemaking shops for production.

PEPE and Carol Marquez still do work in the factory.

On their own

When Jose and Carol got married, both felt there was chemistry between their personal lives and their professional inclinations to warrant not only a marital but also an entrepreneurial bond.

"It just came naturally. We'd be together for the rest of our lives and we happened to have been exposed to the shoemaking business all our lives. Getting into the business became a conjugal and practical decision," Jose figures.

"Our relationship since the start has always been as equal partners. We're supposed to help each other as husband and wife and the same is true with the business," argues Carol. "We arrive at a common decision to go on or put it off."

Their initial conjugal venture was bag making. They began by taking in a designer for a line of ladies' bags.

Producing ladies' bags was a profitable line for J-Mar, their trade name. The business also honed the couple's entrepreneurial skills, aside from earning them valuable credentials to their eventual clientele. However, orders for ladies bags tend to be small, seasonal and targeted only at women.

From ladies bags, they effortlessly shifted to shoes since their collective background, existing machines and market could be tapped for shoes as well. As product, a pair of shoes was highly competitive even as it offered higher margins and separate lines for men and women.

The shift in product line led to the establishment of CatMar Shoes since J-Mar had become associated with ladies bags. A change in business name also marked a fresh start in their return to their beginnings in the footwear industry. It helped immensely that the couple moved to shoes at a time when the industry itself was on the verge of a major upswing.

The early '80s is now being touted to be the golden age of the Marikina shoe industry. Marikina shoemakers received subcontract jobs on volume orders from internationally known US brands. The town became synonymous with high-end quality footwear.

A chain of adverse international developments would nip in the bud this new wave of prosperity. Import liberalization in the mid-1980s demanded the lowering of tariff and duties that, for years, protected local industries from undue competition from foreign products.

Thriving under stress

During its most difficult times, CatMar Shoes' strengths caught the attention of the husband and wife owners of Rusty Lopez, both Marikina-born shoe entrepreneurs themselves. They have since maintained a rewarding business and personal relationship with the Marquez couple and their complementing businesses.

Over a decade, the partnership has also blossomed into friendship. Carol is quick to point out that their friendship grew out of doing good business over the years. Rusty Lopez has its own large production facility and maintains other subcontractors besides CatMar. She thinks that the honesty and loyalty they have shown through good and tough times have been key factors in the sustained business relationship with their only customer.

The same level of continuing commitment is reflected in how the couple has maintained their conjugal partnership despite their being together almost every minute of the day. "You know, I think we've grown to like being together all the time," muses Pepe. "When we're apart, especially when she has to go to Divisoria to get supplies, she'd be on the phone almost every five minutes. For all I care, she just wants to hear my voice, hah!"

They may be seeing each other most of the time, but they seldom get on each other's nerves. Carol argues that they work things out using one simple rule: When one of them is upset or angry, the other tries to keep his or her cool or stays away. In ten minutes, the incident will be forgotten.

Its skilled craftsmen continue to be the best resource of the Marikina shoe industry and the Marquez couple's unflagging concern for their welfare keeps CatMar putting its best foot forward.

Watch out for "Couples Who Dream, Do, and Take Risks" a compilation of case stories on couples in business soon to be published by the UP Institute for Small-Scale Industries and the Small Enterprises Research and Development Foundation. For inquiries, call up Tel. 9287076 to 79 or e-mail info.issi@up.edu.ph

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

THE ASIAN Hospital

Thai group buys into Asian Hospital

DR. JORGE M. Garcia, founding chair of Asian Hospital Inc. (AHI), recently announced the hospital's approval of the offer of Bumrungrad Public Company, Ltd. to acquire a major stake in the institution.

He said Bumrungrad International, the international division of the Bangkok-based Bumrungrad Group, offered to purchase 40 percent of Asian Hospital stock and assume management of the two-year-old facility.

Bumrungrad Hospital International (BHI), which will be awarded a long-term management contract as part of the deal, presently manages two other facilities in the Asian region, in addition to Bumrungrad Hospital in Bangkok, which is Southeast Asia's largest private hospital providing world-class care every year to one million patients from over 140 countries.

Bumrungrad was the first hospital in Asia to be awarded the prestigious Joint Commission International Accreditation (Jica) from the United States. It also pioneered medical tourism in the region.

In welcoming Bumrungrad, Dr. Garcia said, "I think of no better choice to help the Asian Hospital and Medical Center reach its full potential as a major referral facility for the Philippines and the region. Our excellent physicians and wonderful facilities are now joined by Bumrungrad's established international management expertise. They're a winning combination."

For his part, Chai Sophonpanich, Bumrungrad's chair, said, "Asian Hospital is an outstanding institution and Bumrungrad is proud to be part of its very exciting future. This investment is part of Bumrungrad's strategy to replicate its successful business model in Thailand through the management and acquisition of top hospitals in the region."

Opened in 2002, Asian Hospital was the first major private hospital built in the Greater Manila Area in over 25 years. It is a modern, well-equipped facility with over 500 physicians on staff, many of whom hold clinic in a 145-suite Medical Office Building adjacent to the hospital. Asian Hospital has a particularly strong reputation in cardiac care and surgery, attracting patients from throughout the Philippines and the region.

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BDO Auto Loans lets you buy your car today – and put off your first amortization sixty days after loan release! Imagine the relief – you'll get precious time for your finances to recover after paying the lump sum down payment! Even the timing couldn't be better: you can drive your dream car home, and still spend for the coming Christmas holidays! With the BDO Super Charged Auto Loan, you won't have to delay buying your dream car till next year!

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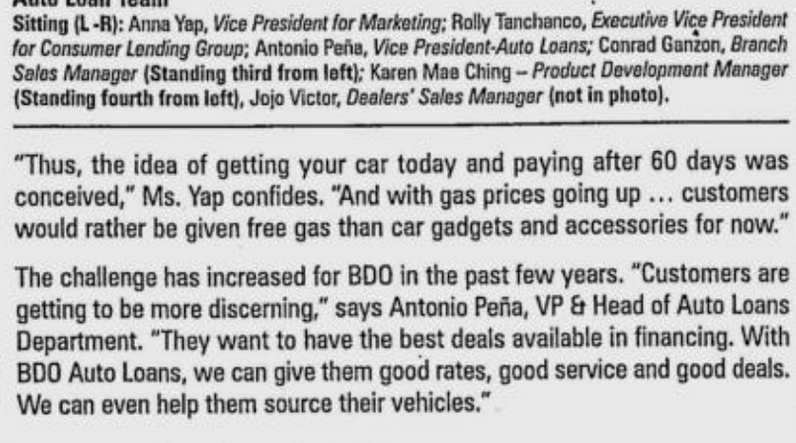
What's behind all the bonuses? Call it our commitment to our number one customer: You. "Our goal is to give our customers more relevant and meaningful offers," says Anna Uy-Yap, VP & Marketing Head for BDO Consumer Lending. "We've talked to a lot of customers on how to improve our products, and we found out that, on top of giving them low rates, fast turnaround time and convenience, a lot of customers are looking for financial flexibility.



Auto Loan Team
Sitting (L-R): Anna Yap, *Vice President for Marketing;* Rolly Tanchanco, *Executive Vice President for Consumer Lending Group;* Antonio Peña, *Vice President-Auto Loans;* Conrad Ganzon, *Branch Sales Manager* **(Standing third from left);** Karen Mae Ching – *Product Development Manager* **(Standing fourth from left),** Jojo Victor, *Dealers' Sales Manager* **(not in photo).**

"Thus, the idea of getting your car today and paying after 60 days was conceived," Ms. Yap confides. "And with gas prices going up … customers would rather be given free gas than car gadgets and accessories for now."

The challenge has increased for BDO in the past few years. "Customers are getting to be more discerning," says Antonio Peña, VP & Head of Auto Loans Department. "They want to have the best deals available in financing. With BDO Auto Loans, we can give them good rates, good service and good deals. We can even help them source their vehicles."

Expect more from Banco de Oro!

"Expect us to give you value for money," declares Rolando C. Tanchanco, EVP & Consumer Lending Head of Banco De Oro. "We will strive to give the best deals to our customers – not just in auto loans, but in our other consumer loan products as well. We will find ways to keep our customers happy and to give them the best financing deals."

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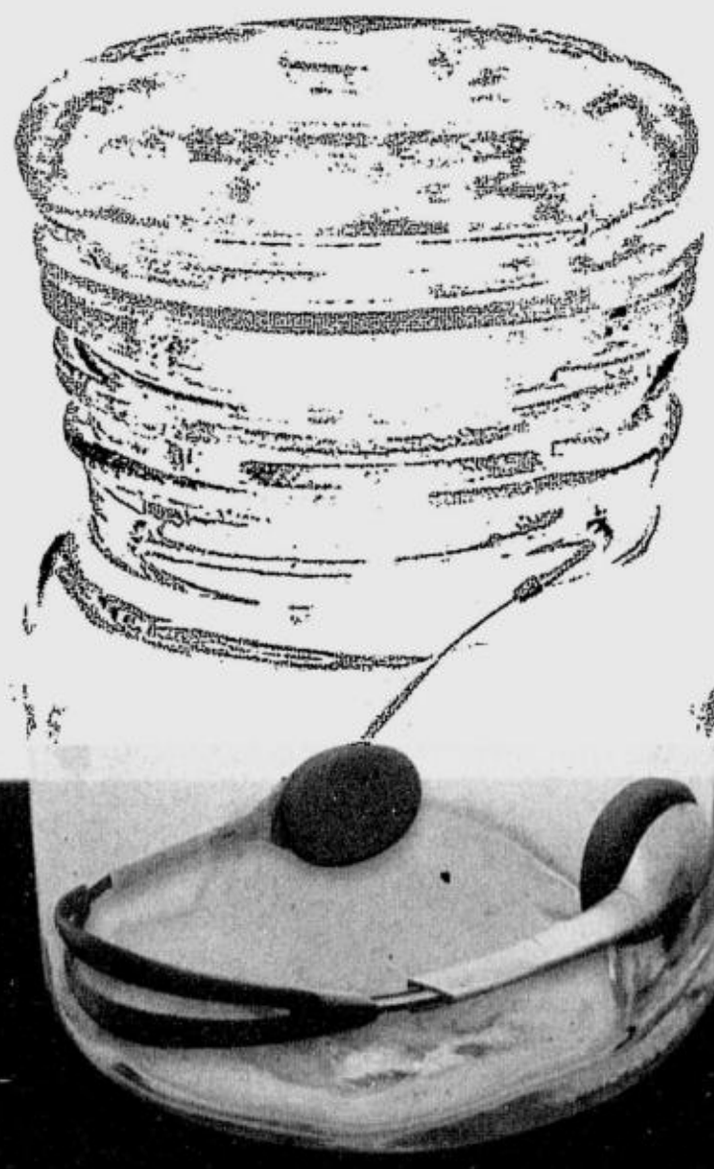


PLDT BUSINESS SOLUTIONS

Inching closer to a cashless world via G-Cash

By Clarissa S. Batino

A CASHLESS society is something not even more advanced economies have come close to realizing.

But then, not all economies have millions of mobile phone subscribers who voraciously send more than 10 messages daily. And if left with only a budget of P30, a cell phone user would likely buy a phone load than a burger.

This is the platform where Globe Telecom Inc. is taking off to spark a cash-less revolution through its G-Cash.

Globe chair Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala said he could not imagine when Globe introduced the digital wireless phone 10 years ago, how vastly it would change the socio-economic landscape.

He noted that G-Cash, another innovative product of partners, Ayala Corp. and Singapore Telecom, would get to change things some more.

"Let us forget all our preconceived notions of what a phone can and cannot do," according to Globe president Gerardo Ablaza when the company launched G-Cash last week.

G-Cash is a program that allows a Globe or Touch Mobile subscribers to buy, pay, tip, receive and transfer electronic cash that one had either loaded into the cellular phone or received from a loved one.

G-Cash's ecosystem would start from Globe and Touch Mobile's 10 million subscribers and Globe's 30 partners with more than 1,500 outlets nationwide.

Globe is adamant that G-Cash is neither Smart Money, Smart Padala nor a fusion of both. Remittance is only a subset of the G-Cash business, and G-Cash is not card-based, according to officials.

Ablaza hopes the ecosystem would grow into a bigger community of wireless subscribers who would load G-Cash into their mobile phones and use the amount as they would cash.

The idea, according to Globe's head of wireless business Ferdinand dela Cruz, started with the Share-A-Load that is being used more and more frequently to tip waiters, caddies and, heck, even bargirls in nightclubs.

Phone load is even swapped for small items like soft drinks and candies in some sari-sari stores, Dela Cruz said.

"The texting habit is there and we want to build on the habit," he said. "We have created a first-of-its-kind program in the country that would would allow our growing subscribers to complete financial transactions at the speed and

FERDINAND de la Cruz of Globe Telecoms JOSEPH AGCAOILI

cost of a text message."

When Globe officials said that the potential of G-Cash was enormous, they were not exaggerating.

Dela Cruz said that in time, Globe and Touch Mobile subscribers could go anywhere and do anything with just their mobile phone in their pockets—malling, shopping, outing, anything.

Every Globe handset would be turned into a virtual wallet, only better, according to company officials.

If the phone were stolen, the user's G-Cash would be spared by making a quick call to 739-2882. Of course the cell phone, even before the advent of G-Cash, is already a hot item for snatchers.

But at least, thieves won't run away with the money you had loaded or had been remitted to you, said Dela Cruz.

Safety and security of the G-Cash system is guaranteed by several million dollars in investment into the IT system, Globe officials said.

For now, G-Cash is made either by converting money in accredited centers like banks or by accepting remittances from abroad. G-Cash is an entirely different currency from the prepaid load, although you could now buy airtime using G-Cash.

Every transaction is subject to a one-percent commission fee paid to the agent that facilitated the conversion of money into G-Cash or G-cash into hard currency.

For instance, an overseas remittance of P10,000 would cost a beneficiary P100 in fee when this G-Cash is brought to LBC for conversion. Any purchase using G-Cash is also subject to a one-percent fee.

But G-Cash to G-Cash transactions cost only a peso or the cost of a text message. Using G-Cash to buy a book at National Book Store or a whole spring chicken at Max's is not covered by any commission fee.

"It is cheapest when you just stay within the system and not cash out," Dela Cruz said. "But this would only happen if we successfully sign up more partners. We are also encouraging small businesses to do it informally."

For instance, if you need to buy paint from a hardware, the store owner need not be a merchant partner of Globe to accept G-Cash as payment, he said. Nothing is stopping anyone from accepting or receiving G-Cash.

And because all that Globe gets in return for the use of G-Cash is the P1 text revenue for every transaction, the second-largest wireless player naturally will continues to employ sachet marketing or "tingi" to prop up earnings.

The smaller and more frequent G-Cash value is transferred or used, the better for Globe's bottomline.

"Our business model is: small in value but high in volume," Dela Cruz explained. "Of course, the more G-Cash text is sent, the better for us. But we also satisfy the need of the local market to make things more affordable especially as Globe continues to penetrate the mass market."

For the merchant partners, G-Cash could mean safety and security. Food companies like Max's that accept delivery may be prone to prank orders. But with G-Cash, the payment is sent through text before a delivery is made.

"The vision is really to have a cashless community that even donations to charitable institutions could be done through G-Cash," the head of the mobile business said. "This is how prevalent we want it, such that all facets and aspects are covered by G-Cash."

Talks are ongoing with big merchants like mall owners, government institutions like the pension funds, he said.

Soon, G-Cash loading could be done over-the-air by debiting from bank accounts and transferring these to the subscribers' Globe phone, he added.

"We want the habit to spread like a virus and for the system to feed into itself so that we would encourage more merchants to join the ecosystem before they get left out," says Dela Cruz.

And with Christmas just around the bend, Dela Cruz said G-Cash could be another gift option for those who would not have time to shop.

"Wala nang lusot ang mga ninong at ninang kasi may G-Cash na (godparents would no longer have an excuse because there's G-Cash which) they could send through text," he added.

Retail event captures new trends, strategies

RETAIL markets across the Asia-Pacific region are in robust shape, backing up buoyant retail sales growth forecasts for the first half of the year made by MasterIndex of Retail by MasterCard International.

Positive expansion was foreseen among different countries, with China taking the lead with impressive year-on-year growth prospects of 14 percent; followed by Thailand, 10.8 percent; Malaysia, 9.2 percent; Indonesia, 8 percent; Philippines, 5.6 percent; and Singapore, 3.9 percent.

Accelerating household spending and stronger employment growth are among the factors driving the industry. Yet while the overall outlook is rosy, retailing is expected to undergo radical transformation six years from now.

Discover the cutting-edge technologies and keep abreast with industry trends and strategies being employed by the region's most dynamic leaders when RITE 2004, Asia's most comprehensive event for the retail industry, officials unfold on Oct. 27 - 29 at the Suntec Singapore.

Roberto S. Claudio of the Philippine Retailers Association says local retailers must keep abreast of the new trends in the industry as crucial to their survival would be bringing down the cost of doing business.

One important move many business owners must make is get more young people involved in the decision making process—whether it be their children or outsiders. "You have to at least involve the young minds."

He cites their own experience at Toby's where there was a noticeable change in sales volumes when he delegated to his son the task of choosing the store's merchandise.

Claudio adds technology in retail is very important today.

"You have to capture the data as you go along," he says.

Claudio points out shoppers now have less time to spend in stores so it is important to maximize their stay by ensuring that they see as many of the goods in the time they have.

RITE2004 combines three significant sourcing avenues into one major event. Its key product sectors encompass all aspects of supermarket products, shoplifting equipment and services, as well as retail information technology.

Happening simultaneously with the exhibition proper is the Singapore Retail Industry Conference 2004 which carries the theme "Survive & Thrive! Revelations in Retailing."

According to reports presented by Retail Forward, a global management consulting and market research firm specializing in retail intelligence and strategies, key trends will alter the face of retailing by 2010,

Customer relationships will become even more important competitive assets for retailers, as consumers gravitate towards technologies that give them better information about products and more control over the shopping process. The study, which is sponsored by Interl Corp., indicated that retailers will also reduce personnel costs by trying to automate as much as possible.

"E-kiosks, smart cards, and RFID-enabled checkout will be powerful tools for customers in stores while mobile devices are expected to be a major technological change driver," the report said. As department stores, malls and specialty retailer fight for survival, some malls will die, while others will be reformulated and reborn. Retail Forward's Tom Rubel, a contributing author of the report stated, "The most promising position for malls will be value, entertainment, upscale or lifestyle-driven, with a much broader mix of retail and non-retail tenants."

At SRIC2004, leading international retailers will present innovative case studies at the Suntec International Convention & Exhibiton Center.

There will also be stimulating sessions by international retail experts and specialists, including Dr. Alan Treadgold, director of research and strategy of Leo Burnett, Australia; Ian Bellhouse, managing director of Spring Brands; Patrick Medley, retail leader for Asean of IBM Consulting Services; Marek Rucinski, senior manager of Accenture and Caleb Chua, principal consultant of The Right ChangeFor details log on to www.rite-exhibition.com.

The many . . .

From page B2-8

may claim a high cost of hauling the gravel, as it allegedly comes from a site many kilometers away. In actual fact, the source is much nearer.

All told, the road built may not be strong enough to bear the minimum load of 3,000 pounds per square inch.

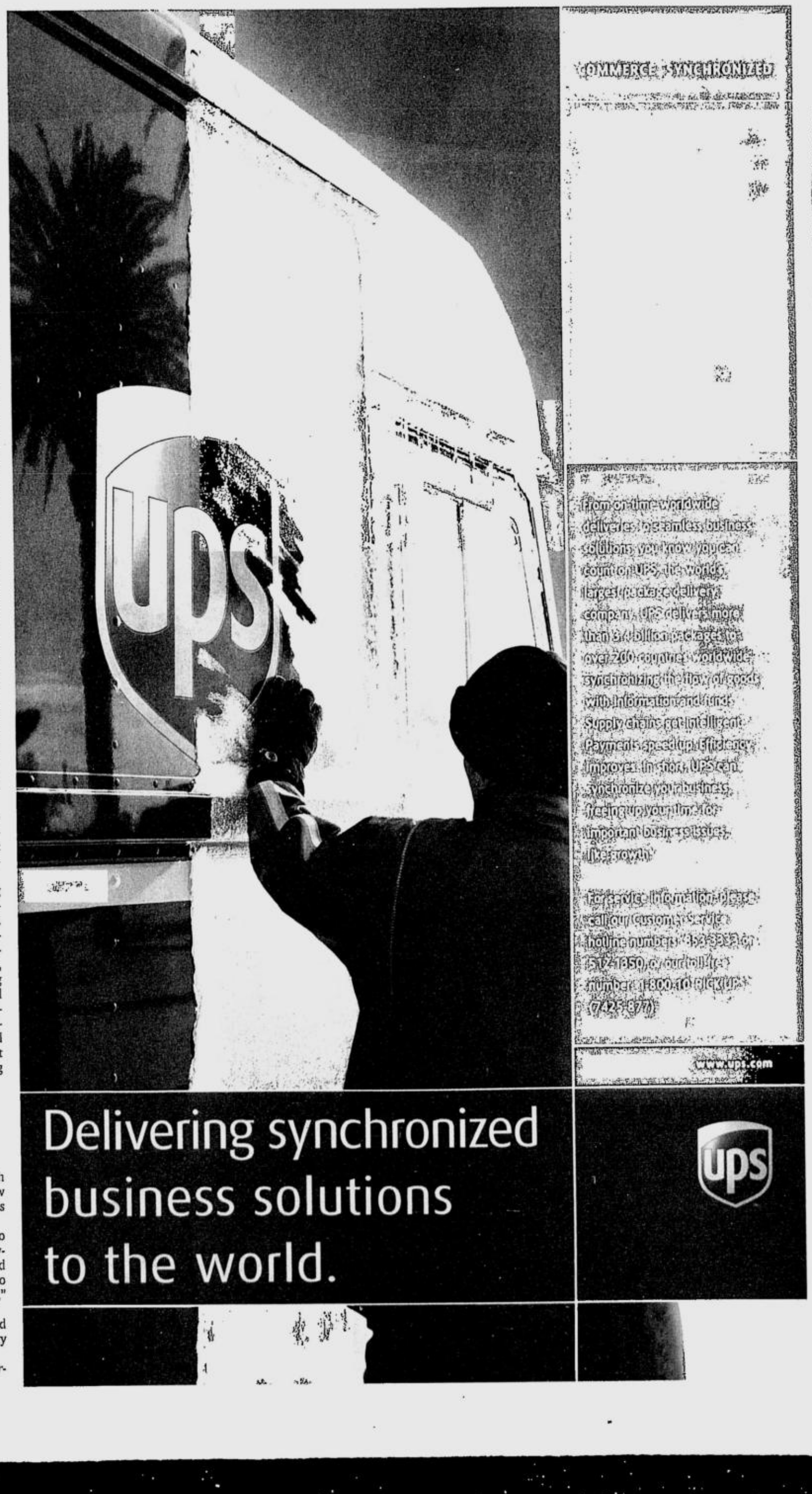
Rental scams

Finally, cheating builders can play around with the rental of the equipment. They claim a bloated number of hours for renting the machines, but will use them for a much shorter time. Officials can allow their cronies to use the machines without charging any rental.

"Another modus operandi is to rent the equipment from the government unit at a cheap rate and then sublease the equipment to the contractor at a higher rate," adds Batalla.

Now, if only more officials and businessmen used their creativity for national development.

Comments to dennisarroyo@yahoo.com



BUSINESS Monday

The many ways to cheat in road-building

By Dennis M. Arroyo
Contributor

THE PUBLIC has been feeding on the details of graft within the Armed Forces of the Philippines. More are familiar with how public funds are spirited to bank accounts abroad.

Yet the AFP is not the first branch of government that comes to mind when corruption is mentioned. Most think of Public Works, as well as Customs and Internal Revenue.

How then does graft speed along the network of roads?

Let me count the ways.

My source is a paper by Eric C. Batalla Ph.D., associate professor of political science at De La Salle University. The research is entitled "De-institutionalizing Corruption in the Philippines: Identifying Strategic Requirements for Reinventing Institutions."

His section on corruption in public roads is based on various interviews.

Cuts from cronies

The paper says kickbacks hover at around 20 to 40 percent, and they land in the pockets of congressmen and their staff, mayors, barangay captains and even city engineers.

Contracts are awarded as favors based on personal relationships, or in payment of "utang na loob," or debts of gratitude. Even contractors blacklisted by the Commission on Audit still manage to take part in the bids. At times the construction firms spend much to entertain the officials. The local public works agencies can get into the act by having their dummy contractors join the bids.

The chosen contractor, a friend, relative, or political ally, wins the rigged prequalification bids.

That's the first stage.

Local officials divide road projects into smaller chunks worth less than P10 million each. That way, they will not fall under the control of the local offices of the Department of Public Works and Highways. Rather, they themselves and their bureaucrats will handle all that paper work like permits and audits.

In the second stage, the projects deviate from the approved Program of Work.

MUCH of the fraud in road-building takes place in the buying of materials, resulting in bad roads.

This plan specifies details like the jobs to be done, the equipment to be rented, the number of man days for labor, the cost of the materials, the profit of the contractor, even the taxes of the government.

Away from the work plan

Many variables are moved to maximize the profit margin. The deal can involve overvaluing the land acquired, bloating right-of-way payments.

Cutting corners

Another way to cheat is to cut down on the building materials. Some parts of the road are mostly gravel covered by a thin coat of cement. The width of the road is shortened by a few inches. Its length is cut by a few meters. Once the road is built, it is difficult to determine if the builders had indeed cheated. Evidence will come only after some time, as cracks appear.

Deceit takes place in the payroll as well. The Program of Work may cite a set wage rate for each day, but the workers get much less in reality. Payrolls are padded, or there are ghost employees. "There are also instances when the payments are even delayed or are not done at all," says Batalla.

Adulterating materials

Much of the fraud takes place in the materials used. Rather than following the Program of Work, the contractor uses substandard materials. Think of cheap gravel with big stones (more than 3 inches wide) rather than commercial gravel. The firm may likewise use the correct materials, but in the wrong quantities.

"There are also standards used when mixing cement," says Batalla. "For example class A concrete contains one bag of cement, two boxes of sand as fine aggregates, and four boxes of coarse aggregates. What happens is that this proportion is not followed, mostly by adding on the aggregates, or worse, by not separating the fine and coarse aggregates."

Another avenue is to overprice the delivery of the materials. The contractor

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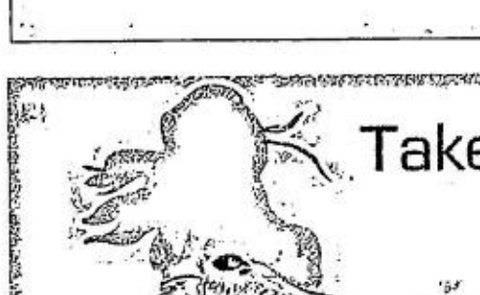

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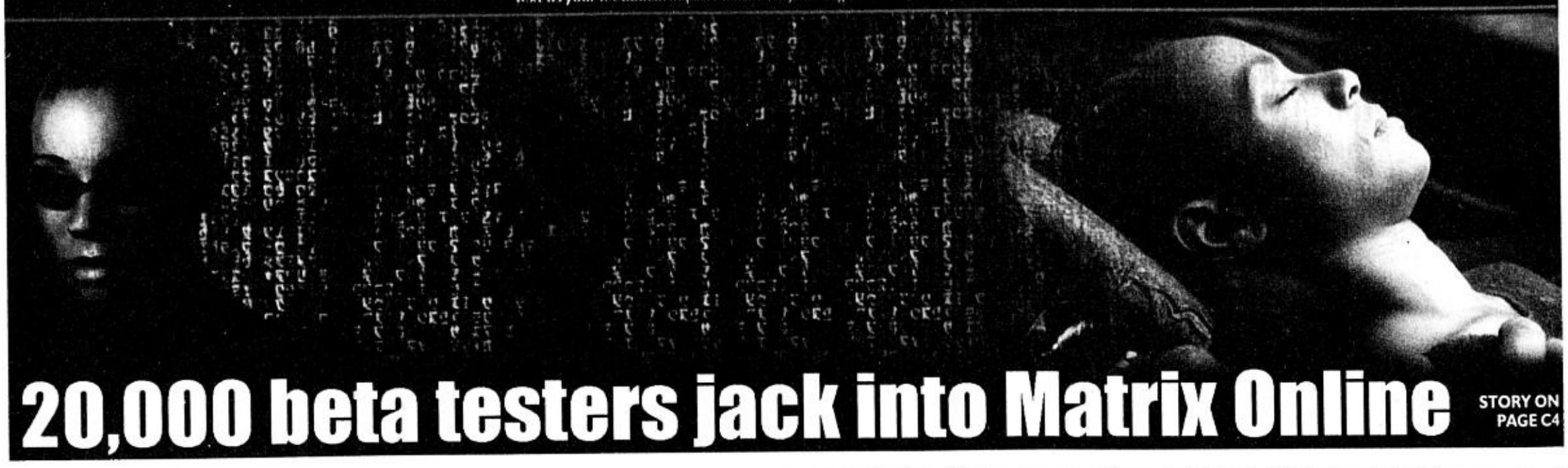

20,000 beta testers jack into Matrix Online

STORY ON PAGE C4

Storage trying to catch up with digital data growth

By Leo Magno

AN EXPLOSION of digital data is happening worldwide as society continues to create more information, and like packrats struggling to cram clothing into tiny luggage, man is trying to figure out where and how that data can be stored.

Consider e-mail. An estimated average of 31 billion e-mail messages are being sent worldwide every day. From 1999 to 2000, digital data created worldwide was estimated to have doubled in 12 months. This year, the top five technology providers have released 75,000 patches of new computer code. All this computes to about 668,000 terabytes of data created every day.

Yong Khai Leong, division manager of the Singapore Data Storage Institute, puts this in perspective.

"A gigabyte of data is 1,000 megabytes or a pickup truck full of paper. A terabyte of data is 1,000 Gb or data contained in paper made from 50,000 trees. A petabyte is 1,000 Tb of data. But now we're moving to the exabyte level, and five Eb would contain all the words ever spoken by human beings," Yong says.

Yong says that in 2002, 5.6 Eb of new data were created. Optical data accounted for 103 Tb, paper-based documents accounted for 1.634 Pb, film accounted for 420.25 Pb, and magnetic data accounted for 4.9 Eb.

"Based on the world population of 6.3 billion, this would be equivalent to about 800 Mb of data for every man, woman and child on Earth," he says.

Chua Meng Pin, divisional SVP for channel and storage division of management software firm Computer Associates, says exponentially exploding data growth is not just about filling up storage devices with information.

"We're seeing a 30-percent year-over-year increase in data, but it's not about how fast you fill up storage. It's about how you manage data," Chua says.

The market, according to Chua, is going toward strategic management solutions instead of "tactical point products," or the purchase of more storage devices like tape and hard drives where new data can be stored.

"The solution is managing data storage with integrated software that feature automation and intelligence," he says. "Software data management has to be business-centric. You have to align storage solutions to your business needs."

This is where the concept of information lifecycle management (ILM) comes in. ILM is a strategy for aligning IT infrastructure with the needs of businesses based on information's changing value. The ILM practice—being pushed by various storage players in the industry such as EMC, IBM, Sun, HP and many others—attempts to get the most value from information, at the lowest cost of ownership, at every point in its lifecycle. It's not just a matter of discarding data that is not needed at a certain point in time, but managing data retention and disposal according to business needs. Think of it as planning which clothes you want to cram into your tiny luggage.

Chua says CA is doing just that, but instead of ILM the company calls its model the Information Management Maturity Model. This process entails the identification, classification, definition and automation of data. As new storage devices are added or replaced, companies have to determine how they fit into the existing storage topography and how they can be used optimally.

"This is what we did with BrightStor release 11.1, which is built around 13 integrated products to align storage spending with business value," Chua says. "Resource utilization is not the greatest strength of the storage industry. Customers solve problems by throwing in more hard disk drives, but the problem does not go away and the complexity grows exponentially."

Analysts agree that the solution to the data storage problem may come from data man-

STORAGE/ C4

Business

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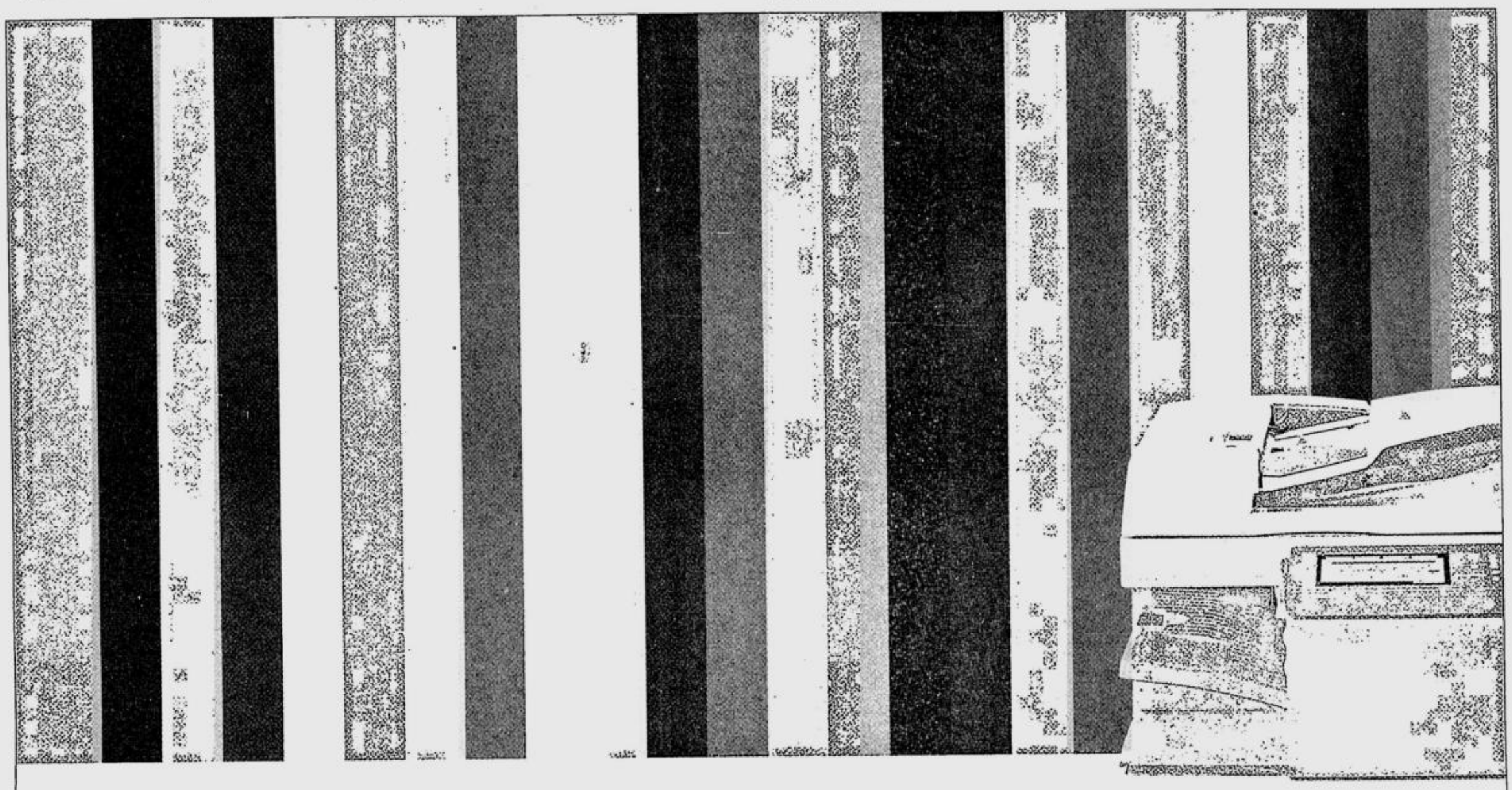

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Copy Speed (B/W, Color):	31 ppm/7 ppm
Max. Original Size:	A3
Max. Copy Size:	SRA3 (320mm x 450mm)
Max. Mail Boxes Supported:	100
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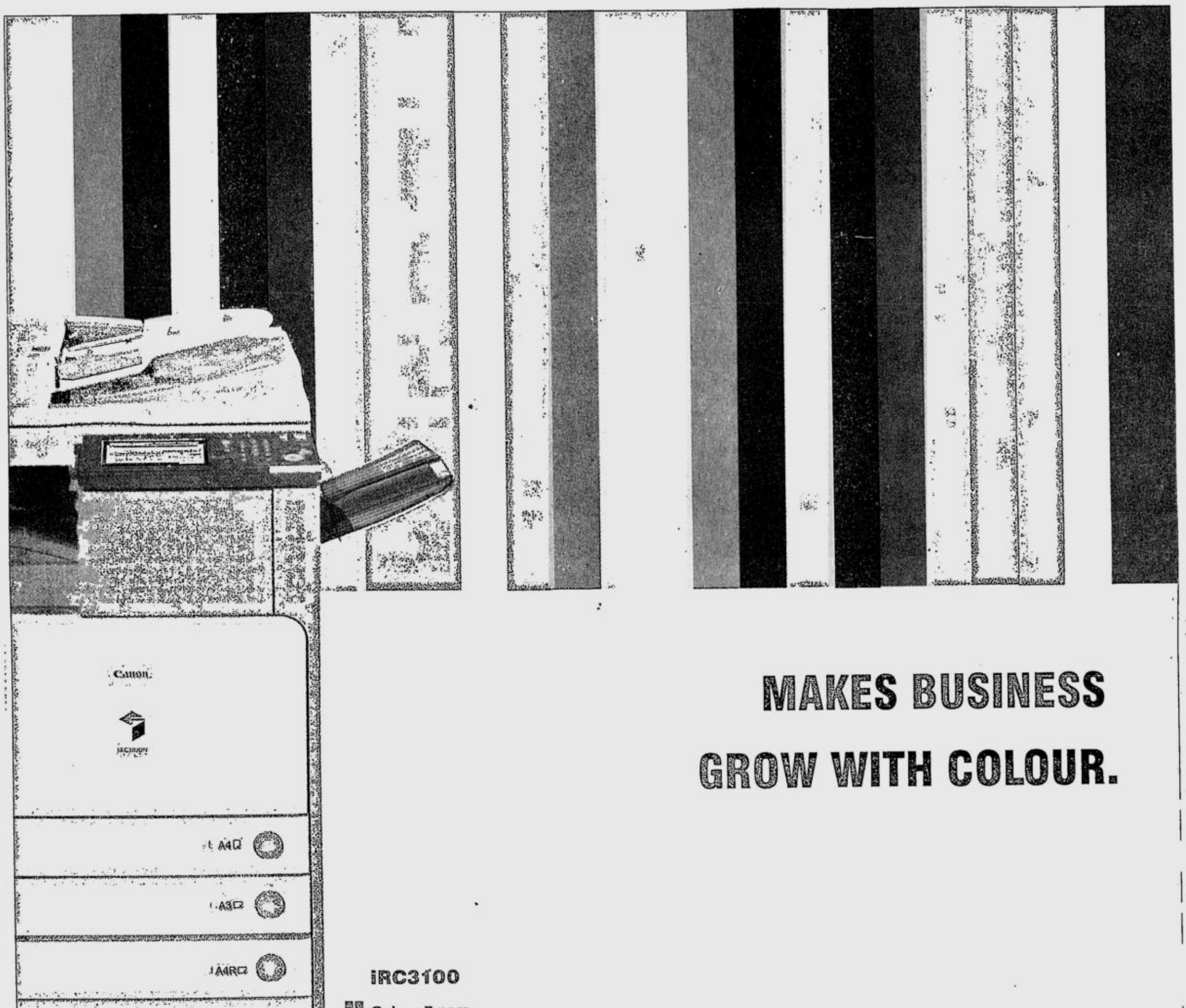

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Local dotcom plans to go public

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva
Contributor

LOCALLY developed online marketplace B2Bpricenow.com is set to go public next year, its founder told Infotech.

"We are planning to either list in the Philippine Stock Exchange secondary board or have ourselves listed in the Singapore sotck exchange," said Edgardo Herbosa, managing director of B2Bpricenow.com.

Established in partnership with computer vendor Unisys and local government bank Landbank, B2Bpricenow.com is a survivor of the dotcom bust in early 2000.

Herbosa is optimistic that the public listing would push through next year following the anticipated launch of B2Bpricenow.com's payment gateway.

B2Bpricenow.com is an online marketplace catering to thousands of local cooperatives engaged in the trading of agricultural and fishery products and services. To date, the marketplace has handled a total of P4 billion worth of transactions since its establishment four years ago, according to Herbosa.

Starting this year, B2Bpricenow.com will begin the rollout of so-called B2B centers in key cities and provinces to enable local cooperatives to connect to and eventually transact via the Internet.

With the establishment of its payment gateway next year, B2Bpricenow eyes to earn more revenues from transactions made through the marketplace, said Herbosa.

The marketplace currently acts as an online bulletin board where local cooperatives and trade agricultural and fishery products and services providers converge.

For the past four years, the marketplace has not been able to maximize transactions passing through its website due to the lack of a payment gateway.

Herbosa said it will roll out 400 B2B centers to be owned and operated by local cooperatives starting this year.

Close to 700 farmer cooperatives have participated in trading within the portal. The website now allows farmers to post and search for the latest pricing on different agricultural products and services. These services are all for free.

Alcatel sees hybrid cell phones taking off in 2005

By Leo Magno

MOBILE phones that can roam from cellular networks to traditional fixed telephone backbones and Internet protocol-based networks using the same phone number are slated for commercial availability in Asia next year.

Hybrid phones that can switch from GSM to LAN-based networks and the traditional public switched telephone network will be available in Asia in the next six to 12 months, according to executives from Alcatel.

"A couple of operators in Southeast Asia and some in China will offer this service by 2005," says Fazal Bahardeen, vice president for fixed solutions division of Alcatel. "This service is access-agnostic, whether it's fixed, GSM, wi-fi or wi-max."

This gives users one number for all calls, whether fixed or mobile. The first such venture will be launched in Europe by BT Group PLC's Bluephone in the first quarter of 2005.

Alcatel is the prime contractor for the Bluephone project and leads the Bluephone consortium, but non-disclosure agreements hinder Bahardeen from identifying the Asian operators that will be offering similar services.

A hybrid mobile phone uses the existing cellular network as its main backbone. When a subscriber is at home or at a place where there is wi-fi connectivity, the phone picks up the signal and switches to IP-based voice-over Internet Protocol (VoIP). Or the phone can pick up the traditional fixed line network route via Alcatel's Open Services Platform. When the subscriber is at the office, the phone's Bluetooth option picks up the signal from the appropriately configured access point and taps into the office's network also for VoIP. When the subscriber goes out again, the phone switches back to the GSM or CDMA network.

The result is cheaper connectivity rates since VoIP and fixed line subscriptions cost less than traditional cellular connectivity. Operational costs also go down for the service providers.

In BT's Bluephone project, however, only Bluetooth is used instead of wi-fi because quality of service remains an issue in wi-fi use, according to Vince Pizzica, vice president and CTO of Alcatel Asia Pacific.

"We think Bluetooth is better connecting to the IP network," says Pizzica. "So you'll have a base station at the office or at home and a Bluetooth modem in the phone to connect. When you're in range, it picks up the signal and switches from GSM to IP. A soft switch (software-based) provides intelligent connectivity."

Pizzica says talks between BT and Alcatel for the development of a hybrid phone started in the middle of last year, and trials were started May this year. During that time, wi-fi was not yet popular, and to date no phones are mass-manufactured with wi-fi capability while Bluetooth phones are already standard.

However, even if operators converge their cellular, fixed and IP networks, not any phone in the market can be used as a hybrid phone. First, it has to have Bluetooth or wi-fi connectivity. Second, special client software has to be installed in the phones. Third, access points that will connect the phone to IP networks have to be in place. Fourth, the operator will likely require hybrid phone users to get a new account along with a new SIM and phone number that can roam with the subscriber whether he or she is using cellular, traditional circuit-switched or IP-based network.

Bahardeen says Motorola, Alcatel and a few others in China are in the process of manufacturing such phones.

But the use of hybrid phones running on converged telephone and IP networks is subject to government regulatorions and the operator's business models.

"Every country has different regulatory frameworks," says Bahardeen. "We work with each and every operator and look at the regulatory environments they are in. We also have to see if it makes business sense for the operator, like seeing if it makes sense from a tariff point of view."

Asian telcos lauded for leading in wireless

By Leo Magno

THE ASIAN market's fast growth was stressed anew by telecommunications executives as they continue to look to the region for more growth amid saturated markets in Europe and the United States.

There are about 1.5 billion mobile subscribers worldwide, and 616 million—almost 60 percent—are in Asia. By the end of the year, Asian subscribers would exceed that of Europe. Half that number or more than 300 million will come from China by end-2004.

Craig Ehrlich, chair of the GSM Association, attributed this success to Asian telco executives' management style and favorable environments surrounding them.

"Asian CEOs and operators are much more street-savvy," he said. "The companies here are less bureaucratic, they're newer and so are more open to new technologies, and they are more competitive."

Ehrlich made specific mention of the Philippines and its success in turning SMS or text messages into a major revenue generator.

"What the Philippines has shown us is that even at the low levels of economic models, you can cleverly market a simple technology. (The GSM Association) makes sure the stories of Globe and Smart are spread internationally so other CEOs worldwide would follow their lead."

Asia also leads in the rollout of third-generation or 3G services, which give users higher bandwidth to surf the Internet and stream audio and video through their mobile phones.

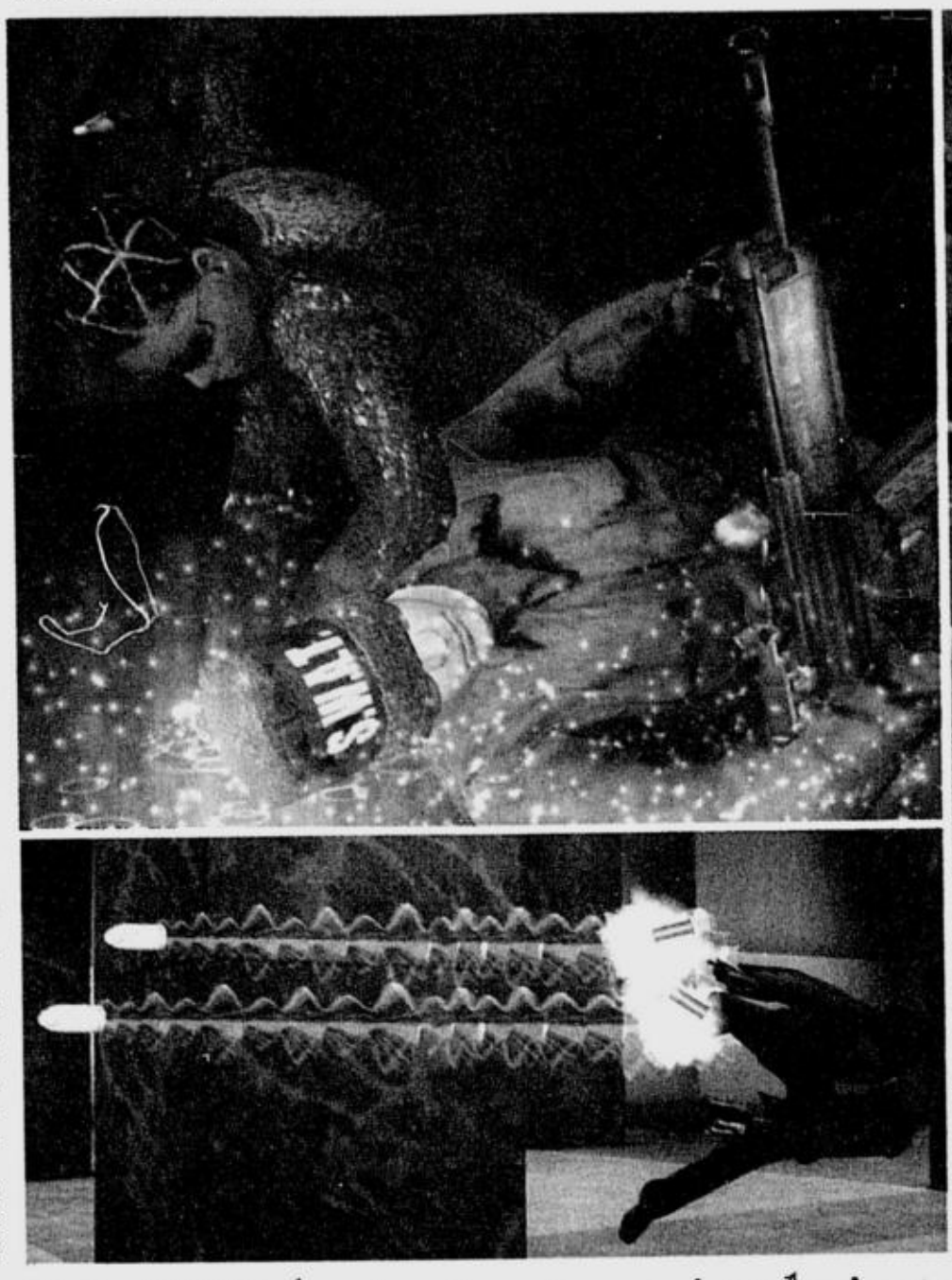
In Asia, only Japan, South Korea, Hong Kong and Australia currently offer 3G. Japan's NTT DoCoMo was first to offer it in 2001, followed by Korea which now has 8 million 3G subscribers and Hong Kong which launched its 3G service in the first quarter of this year. Singapore's SingTel is now pilot-testing its 3G service and is expected to roll out the service commercially in the first quarter of 2005. Malaysia's Maxxis Mobile already has a 3G license and the Philippine government has already released its draft guidelines for 3G frequency bidding.

"By the time this second batch of 3G adopters launch services in 2007, more handsets would be available and their prices would have gone down," said Ehrlich.

The availability and prohibitive cost of 3G handsets are two reasons why 3G has yet to gain mass acceptance. Few models are out in the market, and another Asian company—NEC of Japan—was first to launch a 3G handset for DoCoMo in 2001. 3G phones cost about $1,000, compared to current phone models which sell for about $200.

"Companies here are expanding faster than any other area," said Ben Cowart, vice president for operations of Verso Technologies' Asian operations. "As a company, I believe within the next three years Asia will be the biggest producing market."

Asked if the American and European telecommunication companies are eyeing Asia because the markets there have already been saturated, Cowart said: "I would rather say that the markets there have already matured, they are maxed out. People are looking at Asia because of its untapped potentials. We see a threefold increase in revenue by focusing on Southeast Asia alone."



20,000 beta testers jack into Matrix Online

By Erwin Oliva
Contributor

ARE you ready to take the red pill?

On Oct. 19, the Matrix Online started offering authentication keys to the first 5,000 beta testers of an online interactive game based on the Wachowski brothers' cult classic.

Through Fileplanet, Warner Bros. Interactive Entertainment and Sega gave 20,000 people worldwide a glimpse of the much-talked about game inspired by the movie.

The online game is, however, only available to Fileplanet subscribers.

Last week, Fileplanet began releasing the first 5,000 authentication keys to subscribers on a first-come, first-served basis. The first batch of keys were consumed in record-breaking time, and another 5,000 keys are expected to be released tomorrow and two more Tuesdays thereafter. All 20,000 keys will be distributed within the deadline of one month, or four weeks of 5,000 keys each.

Once the keys run out for each week, the subscribers will need to check back the following week to attempt to gain access into the sprawling world of the Matrix Online.

The Fileplanet website indicated that subscribers that are accepted into the beta test will be able to play online the Matrix game, and experience first-hand the sprawling urban landscape of subways, nightclubs, skyscrapers and dark alleys in this virtual world.

"You'll be part of the secret war that goes on underneath the pedestrian surface—a war of survival and control between Machines, Zionists and Exiles," the website said.

The Matrix Online, nicknamed MxO, is a massively multiplayer online role-playing game (MMORPG) developed by the Wachowski brothers and the award-winning independent game developer Monolith Productions. MMORPG are games played by thousands of players simultaneously to create a virtual online environment. MxO takes place within the hyper-kinetic virtual reality world of the Matrix.

To participate in the beta, you will need to create an account at https://members.warnerbros.com/web/betaReg/enter.jsp to become a beta tester. If you already have an account, you can already sign in using your member name and password. If you get an e-mail confirming your entry, you'll get a key that allows you to play the game at certain hours. If not, try going back to the site next Tuesday.

Beta sessions are held every Wednesday through Sunday, 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. Pacific Standard Time (Greenwich Mean Time minus 7 hours). MxO beta testing hours are currently limited to certain days and times. As the release date comes closer, the hours will gradually be increased. Released date is set sometime January 2005. It is currently being developed as a PC-only product, and developers say it can be played with a 56K dial-up connection. Minimum specs are a 1.4-GHz processor, 512 Mb RAM, DirectX 9.0-capable graphics card with a programmable shader (Radeon 8xxx, 9xxx/GeForce 3Ti, 4Ti or better) with 64 Mb VRAM, 56K Internet connection and 7 Gb free hard disk space.

Yes, there will be "bullet time" in this game. There are several martial arts styles attainable within MxO including "wire-fu" combat. The game will feature cutting-edge martial arts experiences, including bare-knuckle fighting as well as combat with firearms.

But can players play as "The One" in MxO? That question is perhaps best answered by the Oracle, and we don't mean Larry Ellison.

Sun sees more 64-bit users in RP

By Alexander Villafania
Contributor

SOFTWARE developers in the Philippines are expected to adapt well to 64-bit computing, as the industry gradually goes full swing in developing business- and entertainment-related applications.

Sun Microsystems Philippines country manager Cynthia Mamon said the entry of AMD's 64-bit Opteron processor in the enterprise server space has created a new following among small- to medium-scale businesses that require enterprise-level computing power at a fraction of the cost.

She noted that Opteron-based servers are about 25 percent cheaper than their Intel-based counterparts. Software developers can future-proof their hardware since applications would be written in 64-bit code.

"Small software and content development companies have continued to put up shops in the Philippines, and are already requiring robust computing power. The 64-bit market, although still very small in the Philippines, will gradually grow as developers start to fully utilize its capabilities," Mamon said.

SunPhil recently introduced a new line of servers that use the AMD Opteron processor. According to Mamon, the Opteron greatly enhances the computing requirements of their newly released Solaris 10 operating system and their Java programming platform.

Mamon noted that many software developers are enticed to migrate to a combination of their Opteron-based server, the new Solaris and the Java platform.

"A lot of applications developed and used by small- to medium-scale businesses are developed using the Java platform. The Opteron fully complements the computing requirements of Java and so application developers will find it more cost-effective to use this kind of bundle," Mamon said.

Storage trying to catch up with . . .

From page C1

agement software instead of continuously adding more hardware.

Puni Rajah, vice president for research at International Data Corp. Asia Pacific, says storage capacity growth is underpinned by steady spending on hardware refresh but the fastest growth is expected in software.

"The Asia-Pacific storage market is growing at 20 percent annually," Rajah says. "Competitors are looking at each other and so we're seeing many releases of storage software like BrightStor release 11.1."

Focus of Oracle Apac shifts to key markets

ORACLE Asia Pacific reported a strong performance in its first quarter of fiscal year 2005 which ended Aug. 31 as it continues to align its business toward key markets.

Total revenues for the region grew to $346 million, an 11-percent increase from the same quarter last year. The Asia Pacific region accounted for 26 percent of the company's new license revenues worldwide and 16 percent of total revenues worldwide in the quarter. New license revenues grew 25 percent compared with the same quarter last year.

"Oracle Asia Pacific has started the financial year on a very strong note, contributing significantly to Oracle's global performance. In the Philippines, this was our strongest first quarter for the last three years," said Yashi Kant, managing director for Oracle Philippines Corp. "Key initiatives include Oracle Grid, Linux and the mid-market, (spurring) further growth."

Oracle is evolving its business strategy by leveraging its management expertise and core strengths in industry knowledge, product knowledge and key markets. The company is aligning its sales and consulting business in Asia Pacific with the corporate model to achieve deeper focus in three core areas—industries, technology and applications. Oracle said it would also continue to focus on developing new opportunities in Asia-Pacific.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2004

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The National Museum turns 103

THE MUSEO-BIBLIOTECA de Filipinas was inaugurated on Oct. 24, 1881 in the abolished Casa de Moneda (The Mint) on Cabildo Street in Intramuros, Manila.

PRIDE OF PLACE

Augusto F. Villalon

Its Anthropology and Ethnography section exhibited weapons, household objects, costumes, *anitos* and other specimens from the Northern Tribes. A gallery was devoted to Natural History. Another displayed paintings by scholars of the Escuela de Dibujo y Pintura (School of Drawing and Painting).

The American colonial government established a new and separate museum on Oct. 29, 1901. The "Insular Museum of Ethnology, Natural History and Commerce" later became the National Museum of the Philippines.

Unknown to a majority of Filipinos, each October is "Museums and Galleries Month," marked by the National Museum with a series of events organized for a specific purpose: to introduce the Filipino to the greatness of his culture.

Events to commemorate Museums and Galleries Month include open houses in the National Museum and its provincial branches in Ifugao, Ilocos Sur, Bicol, Palawan, Cebu and Zamboanga. In Manila, leading cultural experts and historians deliver lectures.

"Lines Across Time," an interactive photo exhibition focusing on Spanish colonial town planning and infrastructure and also secular architecture in the Philippines presented by Fundación Santiago, opened last Oct. 13. After closing at the National Museum on Nov. 30, the superlative exhibit will tour the country.

On Oct. 27, an Exhibition of Indian Textiles will open, followed by a conference on the cultural and trade links between India and the Philippines.

Fabulous collection

What does the National Museum have? It has the most fabulous collection of objects in the country. Those objects tell the story of how great Filipinos always have been.

Going to the museum is like going to an ancestral house loaded with household objects gathered over the years, where each object tells a part of the family story. To get the entire story, it is necessary to poke around, go through everything and let the collection of objects tell their story.

One part of the broad Filipino story is told by *bulols* carved from hardwood trees growing in the Ifugao highlands. These prized objects, handed down from generation to generation guard family granaries where rice is stored. During harvest season, priests conduct a ritual invoking the *bulol* to make the rice stored inside the granary continue to grow as it did in the mountainous rice terraces.

On the Maitum jars dating back to the Metal Age, Maria Elena Paterno writes, "The large secondary burial jars were earthenware and limestone, but what was so amazing was the human figures on the lids, sculpted with childlike simplicity and attention to detail. These were no representative human figures but portraits of people long gone."

Paterno describes the Maranao *sarimanok* as "... a bird in poise. Its wings are spread out but it cannot fly. Neither will it ever eat the fish it carries in its beak. Though elaborate in its decorations, the bird figure is spare, not a living breathing bird." Since Islam prohibits portrayal of any living form, the *sarimanok* is a non-representational symbolic object of prestige.

THE FIGURES atop the terra-cotta Manunggul Jar, dating to 710-890 BC and discovered in Palawan, silently row towards the afterlife with wonder in their eyes.

The best birthday present you can give it is a visit that will turn you into a new Filipino

Dating from 710-890 BC, the Manunggul jar is a national treasure. On the lid of the terracotta burial jar are two human figures in a boat. Their faces show expectancy and wonder as one figure rows the boat from this world to the next and the other figure, arms folded across his chest, looks ahead toward his next life.

Etched on a copper plate dated 900 AD, the Laguna Paleograph (so called because of its discovery in Siniloan, Laguna), records in old Philippine script the payment of a debt incurred by a lady called Angkatan, acquitting her and her descendants from all responsibility.

Vibrant culture

The story told by each object in the National Museum is powerful. They tell of a vibrant culture that existed in these islands that present Filipinos are unaware to being heirs of. The story told by these objects tells of Filipino greatness.

The former Legislative Building and two others form the National Museum complex that includes the two buildings on Agrifina Circle at the Taft Avenue end of Rizal Park. The Museum of the Filipino People (the former Department of Finance) was restored and opened to the public in time for the Centennial of Philippine Independence in 1998. When the Department of Tourism vacates its present building, it will become the Museum of Natural History.

Architect Carmen Punzalan of the National Museum Restoration Department records the architectural heritage of the National Museum, stating that the former Legislative Building was built in 1921 as a Museum-Library. In 1935, it became the Legislative Building housing the offices of the First Philippine Commonwealth.

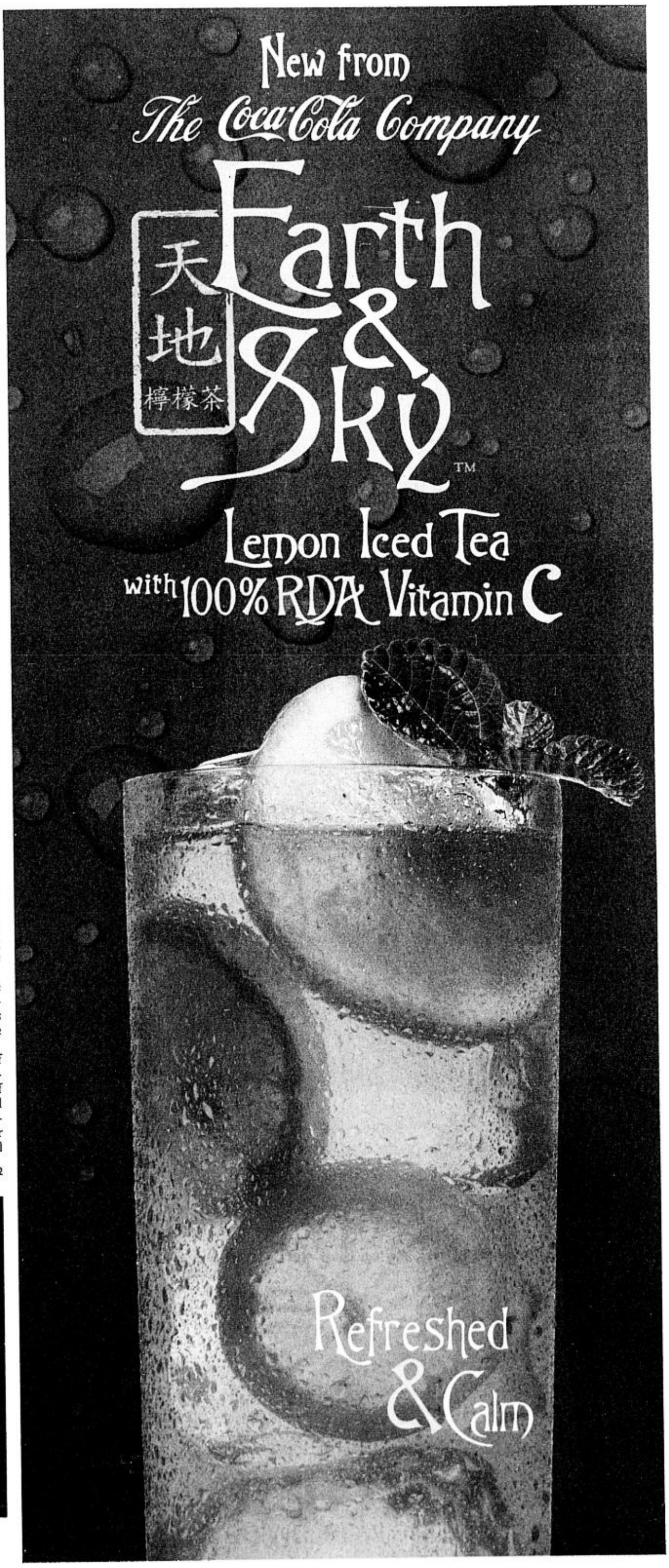
World War II extensively damaged the structure. After its reconstruction, the Philippine Senate occupied it until the late 1990s when the entire building was returned to the National Museum.

At present, the second and third floors of the former Legislative Building, now the National Museum Building, are in the process of being restored to become the National Gallery of Art. The restoration is a public-private effort, with the National Commission for Culture and the Arts granting some financial

THE NATIONAL/ D2

THE MAIN lobby and the second and third floors of the National Museum (former Legislative Building) are now being restored to become the National Gallery of Art.

THIS collection of Juan Luna paintings, together with works by Hidalgo and other Filipino masters, will hang in the new Hall of the Masters of the National Gallery of Art.



Who moved Agang Maganda's 'Cheese'?

By Gary C. Devilles
Contributor

AGANG Maganda's alluring dreamscapes speak of a tradition that goes back to modern artists at the turn of the last century.

Artists like Rousseau, Chagall, Delvaux and Magritte have depicted the inner world in its most lyrical or sometimes eerie forms. Rousseau's "Dream" (1910) depicts a naked woman reclining on the couch amid the verdant foliage of a moonlit jungle. Paul Delvaux's "Entombment" (1957) has skeletons and corpses that seem to come alive.

"MR. Peak"

It must be noted that the fascination with the inner world is the result of the long history of oppression and alienation of the artists. Their production is situated between two world wars.

Frustrated with senseless violence, commodification of culture and social relations, and the utter destruction of everything sublime, artists reckon with these problems by turning to their inner world of dreams and the unconscious.

Maganda is no different in seeking to transcend reality by depicting dreams in his paintings. Knowing that our country is always in political turmoil, Maganda gives us a different view of looking at our world.

In "Fretless Serenade," one sees a stringless crimson guitar with a wooden ladder that resembles a fret and some bluish feather-like image moving up and down near the stairs.

In this painting (or as in any dream), objects are distorted and the laws of physical reality are suspended. Such distortion functions as an estrangement effect that allows viewers to experience anew the familiar world.

For Magritte, a painting should reveal the unfamiliar feeling of mystery, as one has even with eyes closed. "Fretless Serenade" depicts a haunting silence more palpable than the wisp of a smoke and yet more entrancing that the strumming of a guitar. As one observes the fluttering of the blue feather-like images, one is easily caught between weightlessness and the pull of gravity.

"A PIECE"

The depth of the foreboding scarlet background is easily associated with sunset, the end of the day, when one retires to the stirring of the soul. Maganda depicts this dreamscape that offers respite for restless spirits.

Inner harmony is also the theme explored in "A Piece," which shows a bluish-purple violin in the azure horizon. Here serenity is portrayed with the subtlety of the treble melody.

Maganda is a master in blending sound with the visual. He started painting when he was still in the music conservatory. His work is both lyrical and vivid, melodious and captivating.

The artist enthralls with provocative dreamscapes

In "Tilted Nocturne," one sees an inverted plant-like figure stretching down to the clouds below with a clef sign that hangs above the seed. One is charmed by the evolution of life seen in a different perspective, of a different kind of growth.

As one has been accustomed to a humdrum existence, Maganda provides a view of the world with the inner eye, a view that sees and celebrates the magical in the natural, the fancy in the factual.

Say cheese

Maganda's later works are explorations on various distortions on the figure of a cheese. "Mr. Cheese" shows a purple cheese that appears to be a polo shirt with green neck tie and yellow collar. One also sees some pollen-like figures and leaf-like figure floating with wisp of clouds above the collar.

The same imagery is present in "Mr. Peak," while "Cottage Cheese" seems like a room made of cheese.

Maganda is fascinated with cheese, which comes in various colors and shapes. After having dreams of cheese, he decided to explore the figure and use it as a material.

Sigmund Freud believes that in dreams, condensation of images happen with the union of features of two or more objects. Condensation is a dream function that reveals but also conceals.

"FRETLESS Serenade"

The cheese in Maganda's painting may be inviting and alluring, but just as the cheese is used to trap rats, perhaps Maganda's painting alludes also to the double-sidedness of allure.

The world we inhabit is a world of paradox, and for a modern artist like Maganda, awareness of ambiguity and fleetingness is important in understanding one's self and the society.

A world characterized by betrayal and the dissolution of social relations is a world that summons the unconscious, the buried and repressed desire for emancipation—probably the last site of contestation, and also the arena by which one claims what has been lost.

Hence, Maganda's exploration of his dreams is a way to bring us to the brink of existence since the irrational and insane aspects of our civilization always loom large in our horizon. With his paintings, we are invited to be a stranger filled with wonder.

Maganda disrupts the hold we have on habitual experience and allows us to see our ephemeral universe resistant to all that is familiar.

"Moods & Dreams in Cheese" runs Oct. 27-Nov. 5. Call 6877302.

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The National Museum turns 103

From page D1

assistance and the Museum Foundation of the Philippines raising additional funds from private donors.

The former Department of Finance Building on Agrifina Circle in Manila is now the Museum of the Filipino People. The structure was mainly designed by Architect Tomas Toledo, built in 1940 by the Bureau of Public Works, and first used as the Commerce Building and becoming the Department of Finance after World War II.

MAITUM jars, portraying faces of people long gone, were discovered in Cotabato mountain caves.

Cultural threads

Exhibits in the Museum of the Filipino People tell the Filipino story, starting with an engaging light and sound presentation explaining the geological beginnings of our land from volcanic eruptions, appearance and disappearance of land masses, and the formation of the islands.

The Filipino story continues as fossils record early mammals (elephants, stegodons, rhinoceri) living in the Cagayan River Valley and stone tools that show the existence of human beings. Visitors can listen to recorded stories: Life on an Archaeological Dig, The Mystery of the Angono Petroglyphs, Discovery of the Maitum Caves and the Creation of the Universe.

Threads of our culture weave through exhibits of traditional pottery and weaving, national treasures like the Laguna Copper Plate, the different Filipino communities (Sama of Sulu, Ifugaos, Visayans, Maranaos and others).

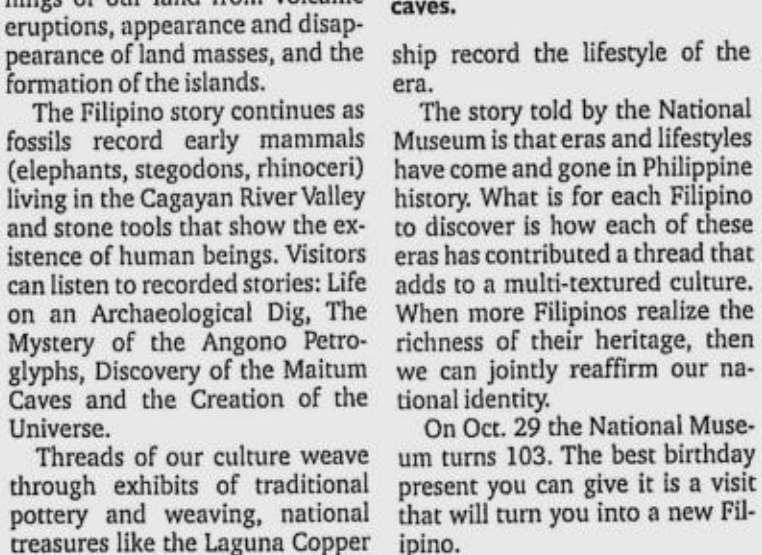
The celebrated San Diego wreck, a ship that sank in 1600 off the coast of Nasugbu in Batangas) is the only evidence of Spanish shipbuilding in Asia. The treasures recovered from the sunken ship record the lifestyle of the era.

The story told by the National Museum is that eras and lifestyles have come and gone in Philippine history. What is for each Filipino to discover is how each of these eras has contributed a thread that adds to a multi-textured culture. When more Filipinos realize the richness of their heritage, then we can jointly reaffirm our national identity.

On Oct. 29 the National Museum turns 103. The best birthday present you can give it is a visit that will turn you into a new Filipino.

Museum of the Filipino People at Agrifina Circle, Rizal Park, Manila, is open from Tuesday-Sunday, from 9 a.m.-12 noon, 1-5 p.m. Admission is free on Thursdays. Call 5271207 or 5271215.

E-mail the author at afvillalon @hotmail.com



ISLAM forbids representation of living things, thus the Maranao *sarimanok* is an abstracted symbol of prestige, displayed during festive occasions.

Antonio at Gallery Nine, Galvez at the Paseo Center, Huon at Galerie Astra

FATIMA Antonio exhibits her floral impastos in "Exuberant Blooms" until Oct. 26 at Gallery Nine in Megamall. On show are her floral bouquets. Call 6877302.

ALFRED Galvez, a muralist and decorative artist, showcases his company's works in the PSID exhibit "Popcorn," until Oct. 31 at the Paseo Center, Paseo de Roxas, Makati.

ALLIANCE Française de Manille presents the abstract works of Celine Huon on Oct. 28-Nov. 11 at AF Annex Gallery and Galerie Astra, 2/F, LRI Business Plaza, 210 Nicanor Garcia St., Bel-Air II, Makati. Call 8957585/ 8957441.

AYALA Museum presents "Power + Faith + Image: Philippine Art in Ivory from the 16th to the 19th Century." It showcases the popular images produced by Philippine carvers for the ecclesiastical and domestic markets. Curator Ramon Villegas will hold a guided tour on Oct. 28, 1:30 p.m. Ayala Museum is at the corner of Makati Ave. and De la Rosa St., Makati. Call 7577117 to 21.

NICOTINA Garden Pavilion along Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City, features Carlos Rocha's "Life and Color" until Oct. 30. The exhibit is a collection of acrylic paintings and sculptures. Call 5517906 to 07.

THE 86TH OROBIA painting exhibition runs until Oct. 30,G/F, Ayala Center, Makati.

GSIS Museo ng Sining features "Flower Festival" until Oct. 30. This is the culmination of weekly painting sessions conducted by the Pananaw sa Kinabukasan Foundation, Inc. Showcased are the works of Davidica Salaya, Marilou Adea, Gloria Endriga, Elmar Perez, Andrea Domingo and Arlene Ligad. Call 5327577.

DIDIT Robillo van der Linden unveils her solo show of "New Works in Oil" on canvas until Nov. 9 at Mag:net Gallery, QC. The exhibit features still life paintings. Call 4100995.

MIKE Kairuz mounts his solo exhibit "Islander Art" until Nov. 10 at Laoag City Hall Gallery, Laoag City. The exhibit showcases tropical settings. Call 0917-7633674.

THE CRUCIBLE Gallery holds Cid's "Ryoanji, the Japanese Dry Garden Series" on Oct. 28-Nov. 14 at the 4th level, Megamall. Call 6356061.

UGNAYAN '80, a group of UST Fine Arts alumni, will hold their annual art exhibit on Nov. 5-30 at Le Souffle Bistro, 2nd floor, Wynsum Corporate Plaza, Ruby Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig. Participating artists are Domingo Alconaba, Lourdes Andrews, Antonio Austria, Edgar Bayani, Jose Blanco, Pag-asa Estrella, Editha Mata-Guerrero, Pablo Javier, Dante Manuel, Renato Quiroz, Koni Sayo, Mario Santiago, Ruben Sindac, Emma Salazar, Lina Sotto and Romy Velasco.

PASILYO Vicente Manansala presents the works of Freddie Gonzales and Gildo Bien until Nov. 7 at the 2nd floor hallway of the Cultural Center of the Philippines. At least 37 abstract works exploring the theme of "harmony" using oil on canvas are on display.

THE AYALA Alabang Camera Club will hold "All in a Day's Work" on Nov. 7-13 at Alabang Town Center. The exhibit will feature images of people at work.

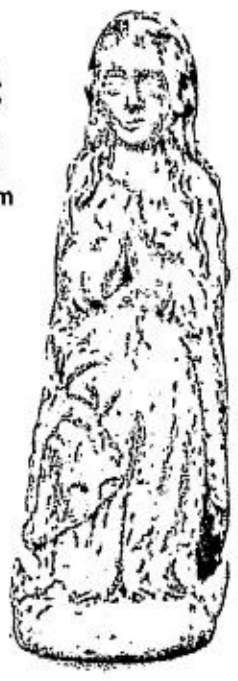
SPANISH culture is the focus of Marlon Despues' photo exhibit, until Nov. 15 at the Casa Armas ferrazzo, Greenbelt 3, Makati. Call 7574961.

ATENEO Art Gallery presents "Arturo Luz Sculptures" on Oct. 27-Dec. 14. This retro exhibit showcases the National Artist's minimalist mettle from figurative geometry to tensile linearity.

SERENITY Healing Center in Pasig holds art lessons for beginners, 9 a.m.-12 noon, until Dec. 4. The pottery workshop will be held today and Nov. 13, 14 and 15. Call 6345058.

THE ALCOVE Photo Gallery will hold the "Pangasinan Exposed" photo workshop on Nov. 6 and 7 in Bolinao, Pangasinan. Deadline for registration is on Oct. 28. Call 7593371/ 8921801.

"BY D'Bay 2," by Marilou O. Adea at the GSIS Flower Festival



"PURISSIMA Concepcion," solid ivory, on exhibit at the Ayala Museum

METROBANK recently held an exhibit showcasing selected works and the winning entries of 6 young painters and a sculptor who joined the first Metrobank Arts and Design Excellence national competition. Photo shows (from left) Metrobank Foundation president Placido Domingo Jr.; Norma Baja; Lovely Romulo; Canadian Ambassador Peter Sutherland; Arlene de Castro, wife of Vice President Noli de Castro; Metrobank chair George S.K. Ty; and president Antonio Abacan Jr.

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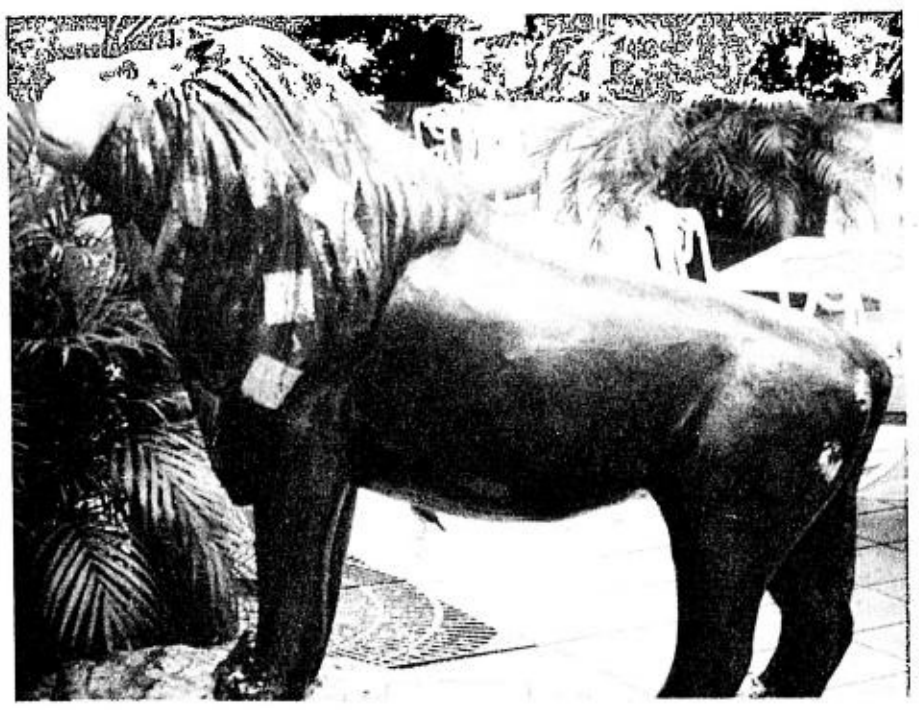
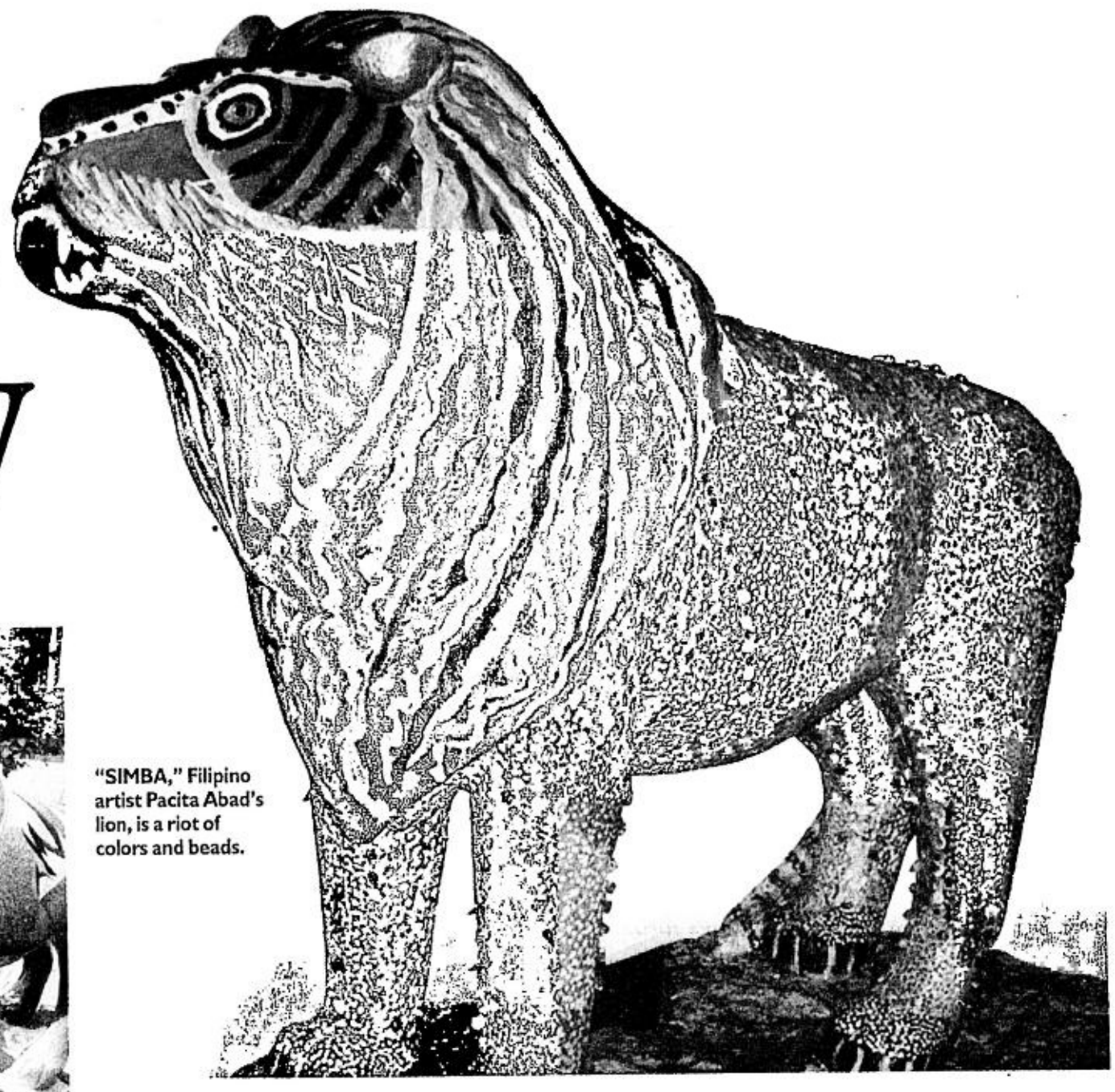
ARTIST Sri von Buren's lion achieves texture through stingray leather and coconut husk.

HOTELIER Jennie Chua pays tribute to the Raffles Hotel doorman.



THIS lion by art collector Marjorie Chu sings the body electric.

Lions in the city



"SIMBA," Filipino artist Pacita Abad's lion, is a riot of colors and beads.

Text and photos by Alex Y. Vergara

SINGAPORE, the famed Lion City, is roaring with excitement these days as a result of the colors, textures and flavors coming from 59 life-size lion sculptures.

Like the cities of Chicago and Seattle, which sponsored several years ago similar attractions featuring cows and pigs, respectively, Singapore prominently displays its lions in popular public areas—from hotels to malls, side streets to major thoroughfares, exhibit halls to performance venues.

Each lion stands 1.41 meters high, 1.6 meters long and .65 meters broad. The lions, weighing 55 kg each, were designed and made in Singapore from fiberglass with polyester resin and white sealant coat.

Several sponsors, led by the Singapore Tourism Board, Caltex and Raffles Hotel, have commissioned various personalities not only from the arts but also from business, entertainment, media and the sciences to jazz up their respective lions.

ARTIST Sarkasi Said's silent tribute to Singapore's obscure beginnings explodes with colors.

African-inspired creation

One of them is Singapore-based Filipino artist Pacita Abad, who did an African-inspired take on her lion, which she aptly called "Simba."

Abad, who has lived and painted in various parts of the world, including Europe, Africa and Latin America, for the past 25 years now, chose a riot of colors and beads—fiery red, electric blue, sage-green, canary-yellow—to spruce up her lion. "Simba" and 17 other lions are featured at the Raffles Hotel.

"Simba is a very sociable, confident and warm-hearted lion," says Abad in the SingArt brochure. "I painted him with the colors I used in my paintings, prints, and recently for the Alkaff Bridge [in Singapore]. They're also the colors of Africa, his home."

Colors, adds the flamboyant Abad, influence our lives in both subtle and intense ways. She hopes Simba, which "guards" the historic hotel's Seah Street entrance, will eventually inspire people to loosen up and enjoy life. Take a hint, Singaporeans.

Aside from Simba, five other noteworthy Raffles Hotel residents are lions by artists Sakasi Said and Tung Yue Nang, architect Liu Thai Ker, conservationist Bernard Harrison and photographer Russel Wong.

Like Abad, Said's chose to make his lion colorful. Instead of linear and zigzag patterns, however, the artist embellished his lion with swirls of bright colors, from orange to lime-green, red to violet.

Legend has it that a prince sailing the Straits thought he saw a lion on an island in the distance. He believed this to be a good omen and decided to found a city, which he named Singapura or Lion City.

PHOTOGRAPHER Russel Wong's idea of a monochromatic lion

TAMASEK Design School's fusion of the Lionfish and Leo results in "Fleo."

"My lion is a silent tribute to this moment of inspiration," Said adds, "and to the vision of those who built our nation over the years."

Another moving tribute, which reflects Singaporeans' deep sense of nationalism, is captured in journalist Sumiko Tan's silver lion outside Raffles City Shopping Center. Silver, she says, is 'a magnificent and subtle color, which describes her country well. If only Filipinos are half as patriotic.

"Over the past four decades," she shares, "the nation has quietly but steadily gone from Third World to First World. The Lion City now glimmers like a silver star in the waters of Southeast Asia."

Primary shades

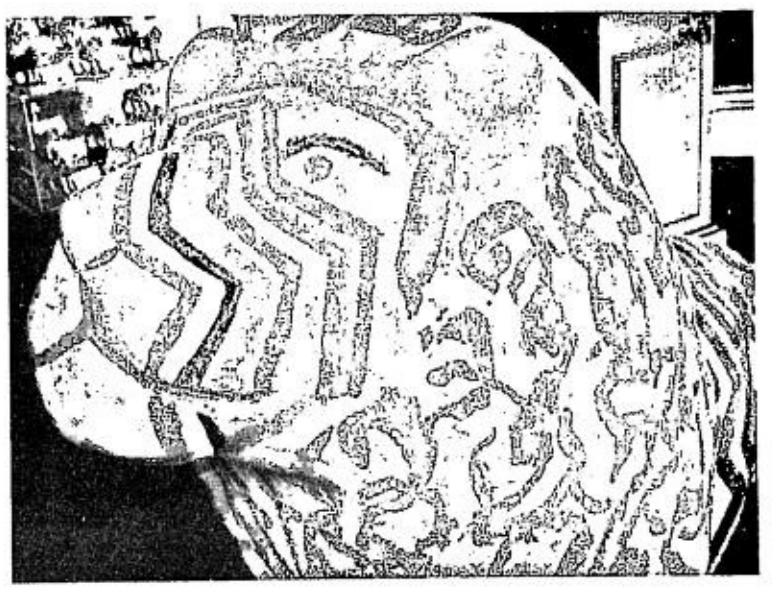
Meanwhile, Harrison chose to limit his colors to bright primary colors. Aside for a wish for harmony and solidarity, the lion has also become a medium through which to reveal its creator's personal history and state of mind.

In Harrison, the lion represents two stages in his life: past and present. The lion's side, decorated with birds and leaves, portrays the years he headed the Singapore Zoological Gardens. The right side is abstract and represents his life now, which is more unpredictable and less structured.

"The leaves on the lion's mane stand for what unifies my life," he says. "And this is a concern for the environment."

Wong's white lion spotted with identical camera images is refreshing in its simplicity. Ignoring the lion's form, he used it and its pedestal as a canvas, which represents the monochromatic photography people associate him with.

59 sculptures of the king of the jungle can be found all over Singapore's public places



Dick Lee's disco ball of a lion is displayed at the Esplanade, Singapore's durian-shaped performance venue. His choice of medium—bits and pieces of mirror stuck all over the lion—is apt, since he's a professional pop singer.

"At midnight," he says, "Singapop [the lion] is lowered and the dancing crowd of Singaporeans see themselves in the lion. A reflective celebration!"

For all its glitter and color, each lion has a social obligation to fulfill. Interested Singaporeans have an opportunity to do their share for charity by "adopting" a lion.

The exhibition "A Brush with Lions" runs until January next year.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

ARCHITECT Liu Thai Ker's lion is inspired by Singapore's rich colors as seen in its food, birds and bountiful landscape.

SILVER and gold spots represent the talents of Singapore's arts community, say students of La Salle-SIA.

The happy painter

By Joan Orendain
Contributor

SALVADOR Cabrera, more than any other among the brotherhood of Mabini painters in the 1960s and '70s, was the true bohemian.

"The bohemian lifestyle was the Mabini lifestyle," daughter Carla, 29, says. "Certainly, he lived from day to day."

The "happy painter," as brother BenCab describes him, painted with lightning speed, his subjects leaping out of the canvas with large, limpid eyes, in the same way their creator's physical exuberance infected fellow artists.

Workmen, children, clowns and beggars were his favorite subjects, though he startled Mabini, says fellow artist Bill Ibañez, with something else. "A whimsical departure was his painting of a group of several female nudes cavorting on a single canvas. It was reportedly bought immediately by the owner of one of the many girlie bars that Badong, BenCab and their UP friends used to frequent."

Benedicto, who signs his artworks "BenCab"—younger by 14 years, whom Badong guided until the budding artist came into his own—has gathered Badong's works in a tribute exhibit at the Art Center of Megamall.

These are paintings, Sunday Times Magazine covers, editorial cartoons, his comic strip "Bindoy." A number of Badong's sons' works and one by BenCab are included in the exhibit.

His pre-Indigo Gallery friends (which he, BenCab, Bibsy Carballo and Kiko Navarro opened in 1966) call him 'Bading.' Friends he met later at Indios Bravos, the avant-garde's bistro hangout next door to Indigo and elsewhere, called him 'Badong.'

(For lack of rent money—P800 a month—the gallery where BenCab held his first one-man show closed in 1968. The following year, BenCab moved to London, there to reside for the next 16 years, save for a brief trial return in 1972.)

Boss and idol

Born in 1929, Badong was the second in a brood of nine. The Cabrera family of Bambang Street, Sta. Cruz, did not have it easy. About the only luxury they enjoyed were free medicine samples brought home by their father, a drug salesman.

Enrolled at the Fine Arts department of the University of the Philippines—among the likes of Sansó, Araceli Limcaco, Celia Diaz, Alcuaz and Pitoy Moreno—Badong dropped out after two years, in 1950.

"I barely remember him because he was a quiet fellow, very shy," Pitoy says.

On Mabini, where he joined fellow artists a few blocks away from the Padre Faura university, he broke through, even while holding down a job, first at Camp Murphy (now Camp Aguinaldo), where he illustrated anti-Communist comic books for the Civil Affairs Office.

In 1952, he joined the Daily Mirror and its Saturday magazine as editorial cartoonist and chief artist. He also created the popular comic-strip character Bindoy, the *provinciano* Everyman.

Joining his Mabini cohorts full-time, he put up Sining Gallery with BenCab and Bal Magallona, BenCab's former classmate at UP. Their atelier was on M.H. del Pilar. After it burned down, they moved to nearby Cortada Street, also in Ermita.

Badong was an impatient painter, churning out work after work to which he applied quick-drying linseed oil. He maintained a stable of apprentices to stretch his canvases and clean his brushes.

"When Dad made lots of money, he bought lots of things for all of us," Carla recalls. "We were spoiled," she says of her six older brothers and herself.

"At noon, everyone would go to Bading's for lunch, and he'd pay for everything. He was a jolly fellow," remembers Jess Tolentino, one of the last few remaining Mabini holdouts, who later became art professor at University of Santo Tomas. "He was my idol, my boss at the Saturday Mirror magazine. Whenever he went on leave, I drew his editorial cartoons."

BenCab was working with the US embassy when Badong spotted a job for him as layout artist for the Sunday Times magazine, as Noli Galang had resigned to move to Hong Kong.

Paintings abroad

When son Renato turned 18, after having taken art courses at UP and Philippine Women's University, Badong started taking him to Angeles, Pampanga. There, cheek-by-jowl with the US Air Force base at Clark, Badong shared a gallery with two locals.

American soldiers' wives made appointments with Badong for their portraits to be painted at the Officers' Club. Every Saturday and Sunday, father and son would go to Clark to paint or hold art demonstrations for the ladies.

"Evenings, we would become *'aswangs,'* bar-hopping and dancing with all the girls," remembers Ronnie. "If the bar girls were pretty, he'd invite them to the gallery to paint them."

Before returning to Manila, the two would stock up on black-market PX goods for the family.

"His paintings are all over the world now," BenCab says. "In Honolulu, I was in a house which had a big collection of his works. Jurgen Wolgemuth, a Munich art dealer, was a regular customer, as were Adrian Cristobal, Pilar Pilapil, Dr. Constantino Manahan and Johnny Wilson. An early collector was Maritess Pineda."

Chuchay Tuason, when she became Miss Philippines, took some of Badong's works to Caracas, Venezuela. A Nigerian consul had the pleasure of sitting for 30 minutes for a likeness.

Deteriorating health

BenCab says he was delighted to learn from Onib Olmedo himself that it was Badong who had taught him anatomy and how to draw and paint nudes, which became an Onib signature. Before that, Onib had gone to Cortada only to play chess.

Dr. Joven Cuanang, another avid collector of his works, became his physician when, stricken with diabetes, his health deteriorated.

In 1985, when BenCab returned from London, he was alarmed to see how Badong had gotten so weak. He took him to Cuanang, who treated Badong's glaucoma first so he could resume painting.

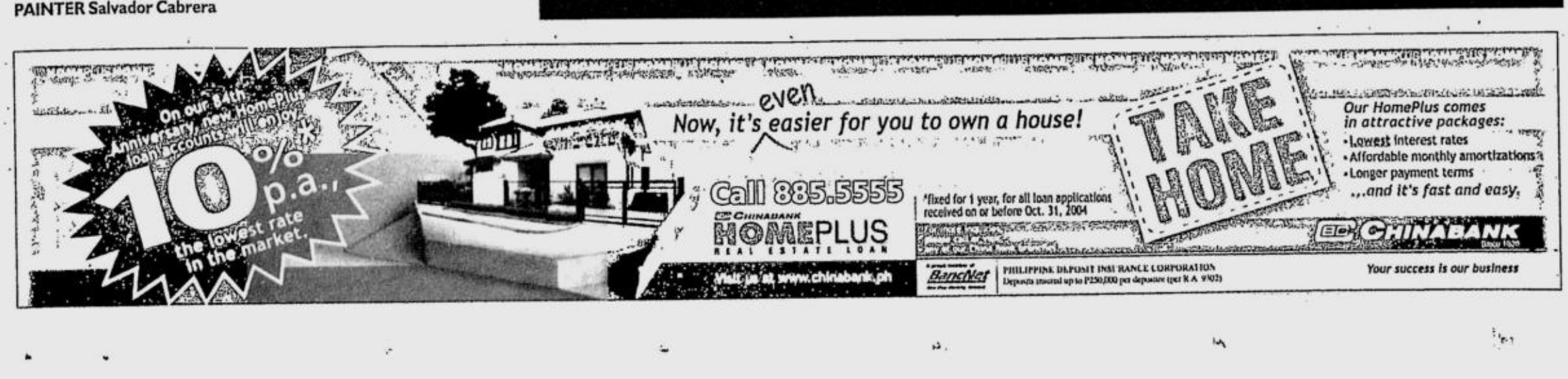
"Before Dr. Cuanang could attend to his diabetes and whatever other health problems bothered him, he suffered a stroke and went into a coma," BenCab says. "Two days later, in 1986, after the Edsa event, he was dead."

Ronnie, Buddy Jr. and Jojo are exhibiting their works at their father's retrospective. Carla, a tall beauty and ex-model he would have been delighted to paint, is an events manager. She put together her father and brothers' exhibit, with lots of help from Uncle Ben.

The exhibit "A Tribute to Salvador Cabrera" is presented by Crucible Gallery until Nov. 7 in the Art Center of the Artwalk, L/4, Bldg. A, SM Megamall.

"MARKET Vendor"

PAINTER Salvador Cabrera



FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND

A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA

MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG

PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have a strong, forceful mind. You're quite brave. You also relate to the world in a very physical way. When you enter a room, others notice. You don't like a mess. You like order, and you like to be in control of things. Major changes (perhaps similar to 1994-95) will take place this year.
Birthdate of: Pablo Picasso, artist; James Carville, political strategist; Nancy Cartwright, Bart Simpson's voice.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Keep your pockets open, because an unexpected gift might come your way today. Goodies, favors, perks and advantages are yours for the asking. Lucky you!

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Conversations with others are exciting and stimulating today. You feel turned on by life. Actually, people are turned on by you! (You devil.)

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): New technology or electronic equipment might be introduced into your job now. Don't be frightened by it. Anything new looks overwhelming at the beginning. (

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Love at first sight is possible today. Flirtations with someone new are exciting. This is also a great day for fresh, new, creative ideas. You are on top of your game!

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Honest, down-to-earth conversations with family members are very revealing today. People finally feel they can put their cards on the table. This clears the air and makes everyone feel better.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): This is not a good day to sit around and relax. On the contrary, get out and do something different and exciting! Your mind is racing a mile a minute.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Unusual money-making opportunities could come your way today. You feel unusually independent at work. Don't hesitate to suggest reforms and better ways of doing things.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): No aspect of yourself is hidden today. You're prepared to tell all! You feel frank, open and honest with everyone. (This is so unlike the secret you!) Who knew?

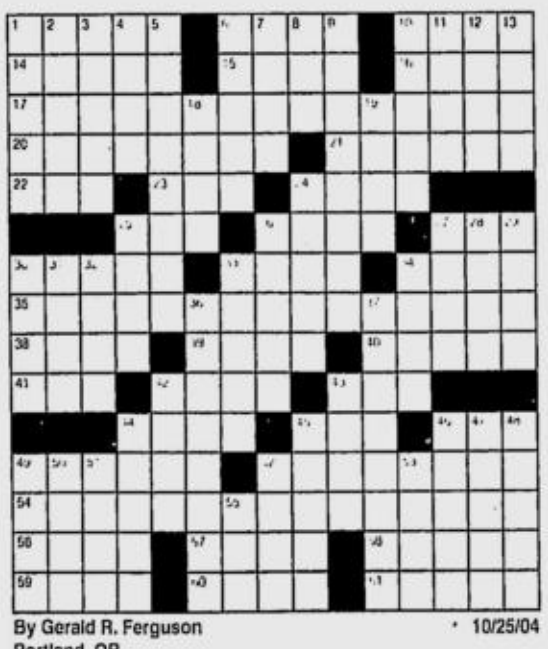
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You have so many ideas percolating on the back burner now; don't be surprised if you have a minor epiphany today. A "Eureka!" moment. Suddenly you see everything in a totally new light.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Someone will catch you off-guard today. Either you will meet somebody who is quite a character, or someone you know will throw you a curveball.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Something unexpected might come along today that boosts your career. If this happens, you have to be ready to jump quickly. Your window of opportunity is brief.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You're excited by an entirely new concept or understanding about something. It could be connected to philosophy, metaphysics, religion or politics. It's groundbreaking and intelligent in a fresh, new way.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Gerald R. Ferguson
Portland, OR

10/25/04

ACROSS
1 Self-employment retirement plan
6 Jezebel's deity
10 Main aisle in St. Peter's
14 Host
15 Der __ (Adenauer)
16 Arthurian lady
17 Trinket
20 Compelling influence
21 Pullover
22 Fast flyer, briefly
23 Novelist Levin
24 Prohibition grp.
25 Year in Madrid
26 Spanish rivers
27 Slangy affirmative
30 Capital of Belarus
33 Croat's neighbor
34 H.H. Munro
35 Small part of a whole
38 Turner and Clanton
39 Very dry
40 Impertinent
41 Part of NY's S.I.
42 Very dry, as champagne
43 Bar in Britain
44 Shoulder of the road
45 Big __, CA
46 Old Gray Mare
49 Athens rival
52 On the whole
54 Compact pet?
56 BTU part
57 Canal of song
58 Merger
59 Hairstyling products
60 Break suddenly
61 Classifies

DOWN
1 Seaweed varieties
2 Middle Eastern rulers
3 Band of eight
4 Grasps
5 1952 Olympics site
6 Port of Iraq
7 Burn soother
8 Place to get PIN money
9 "On the Waterfront" co-star
10 First PM of India
11 Black cuckoos
12 Clinging flora
13 All nerves
18 Continental dollar
19 Hanoi holidays
24 Belushi biography
25 Adder cousins
26 Punch again
27 Jabbers
28 4-string guitars
29 Feel compassion for
30 DCCLI doubled
31 Vexes
32 Mr Coward
33 Guitar stroke
34 Wound cover
36 Tells the tale
37 Like a loan shark
42 Greek letter
43 "__ Fiction"
44 Limeys
45 REM situation
46 Low point
47 Parcel out
48 Valleys
49 Complacent
50 Knotty wood
51 Blue dye
52 Song for Sills
53 Words to Nanette
55 Coffee server

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

P	R	A	N	C	E		B	L	A	D	D	E	R	S
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10/25/04

MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

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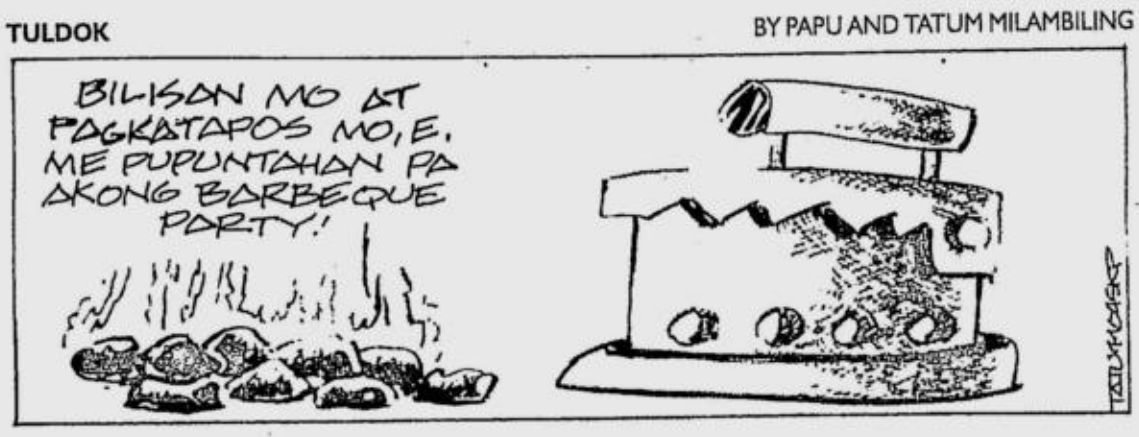
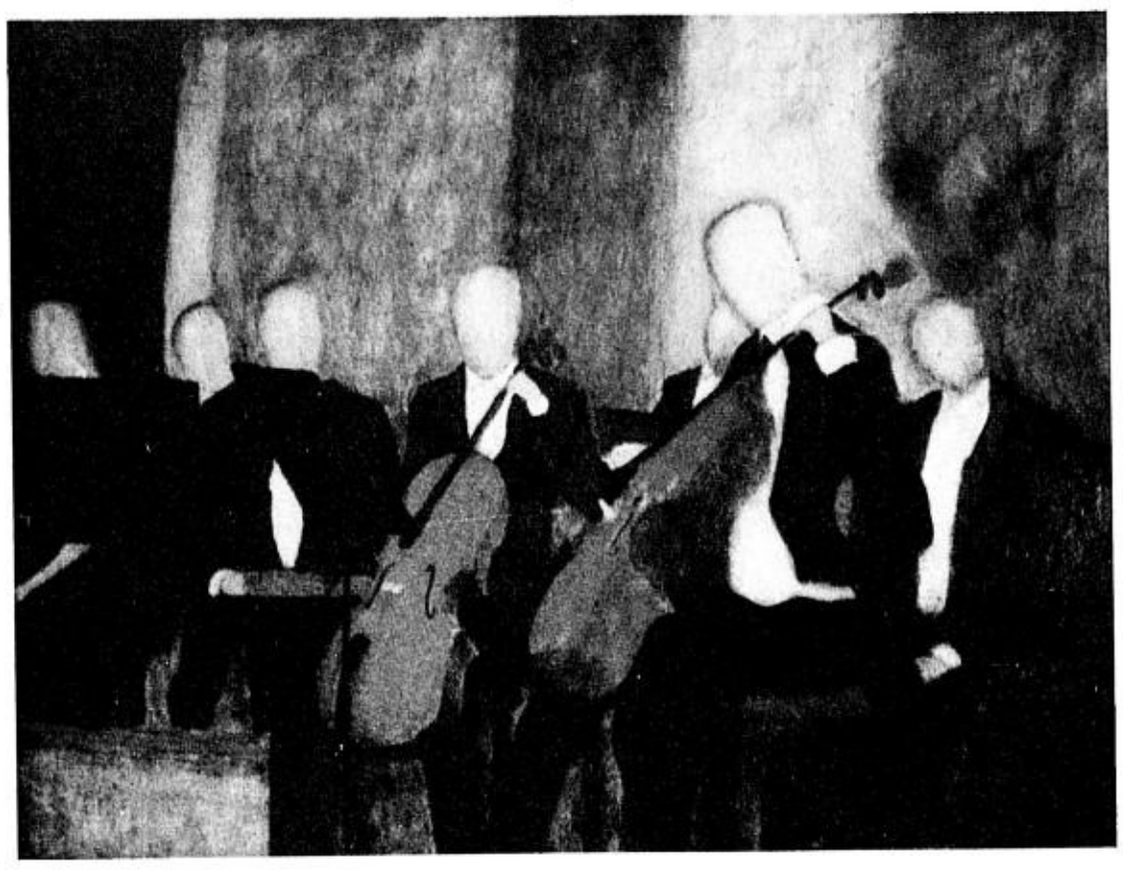




"AND to Soothe the Night," by Pedro Garcia

"JAZZMASTER," by Pandy Aviado

Visual jamming

By Constantino C. Tejero

A FOOD for thought for gallery-goers was the recent "Art Jam," a hodgepodge of mixed-media artworks in Crucible Art Gallery at the Artwalk, L/4, Bldg. A, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City.

In a clear allusion to the jam session of jazz musicians, the exhibit includes two artists who are also musicians. The admixture of artworks itself was as crowded and spontaneous as jamming.

Legendary rocker Joey "Pepe" Smith, here in his first attempt at the visual arts, comes up with four artworks depicting what could be images, moods and emotions that influence, inspire or express his music—showing the complexity of his psyche, personality or music.

Three pieces are rendered in blow pen and pastel on paper. "Peppermint Snail" has a stylized form of a snail outlined in green and striped in umber on a charcoal-gray background.

In "Psycho-somatic," the artist depicts on exposed paper a cobweb that segues into a sunburst of green, yellow, red, orange, pink, blue, black. "Spiro-gyna" has the same sunburst of hues but the cobweb has been subtly replaced by a spiral.

The artist is in a crepuscular mood in "Night Flight," a diptych in acrylic on corrugated plastic boards, depicting on a solid-black background numerous sparks of green, yellow, orange, white, which could be moths or nocturnal birds.

Lirio Salvador, a sculptor who's also a rock-band member, is here with his signature stainless-steel assemblages of outlandish musical instruments.

"Sandatang Hinihipo" looks like a combination of cymbals and drum, while "Baby Sandata" is a guitar that's not quite a guitar. Both are plugged into an amplifier and a video monitor that emits blue points of light when the sensitive sonic pieces are touched.

Hard-rock abstractions

Alfred Sarino, whose abstraction is influenced by hard rock, displays 10 photographic-transfer images of Pepe Smith on paper with the background retouched with acrylic in streaks of yellow, green, white, violet, fuchsia, gray, blue.

Titled "A Different Pepe," the series shows the wacky musician mugging while holding a billiard cue, a glass of beer, a knife to his ear, a firearm, or simply strumming on a guitar.

Maela José, a multimedia artist based in Baguio City, offers her version of *tinatik* art in a kaleidoscope of bleeding hues. With dye on cloth, she has created spontaneous patterns in washes of orange, green, yellow, blue.

Also referring to music, the artist has titled her pieces "Rock Guru," "Rock & Soul" and "Rock & Roll."

Meanwhile, master printmaker Pandy Aviado is more straightforward in referencing music. His "Jazzmaster" shows a man with a guitar in a diptych of negative-positive images, the woodcut panel in brown and black and the proof print on paper in white and black.

"Telecaster" 1-2, fine prints retouched with watercolor, pencil, and pen and ink, show a guitar of black, brown, white and maroon. The first has the guitar laid on a gray seashore with a conch, while the second is a multiple exposure of the guitar on planes of ochre and pink superimposed with ethnic characters.

Though small, this exhibit is important for art appreciation. Gallery-goers need more of this visual jamming, this interacting of artists of various fields, to enrich their ideas of what art is.

Innate musicality

The arts are, of course, interrelated, and music has always been a popular theme and strong inspiration for visual artists.

We don't know why, but every time we lay eyes on a painting or drawing by Pedro Garcia II, we think of Debussy. Maybe it is the sweeping languid lines, the sense of languorous movement, or the impressionistic treatment of light and shadow.

Or maybe it is the moon, full or crescent, that often appears on his canvas. And we think of the third movement of Debussy's "Suite Bergamasque."

"Music," says Garcia, "is the conversation of souls... It is a higher level of language among people, almost universal. It is a sacred instrument of communication that brings harmony and understanding without words."

And he wants to show this through a convergence of men and women in a music hall or on a dance floor.

Also, tenor Andrea Bocelli is a favorite of his. And he has a friend playing with the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra. So that explains the innate musicality of his imagery.

Garcia has been doing this theme since four years ago. It continues through his first big solo exhibit, "Let's Play," held simultaneously at the Art Center (17 pieces in oil on canvas, paired with their drawing studies in charcoal and oil on paper) and in Big & Small Art Co. (10 pieces in oil) at the Artwalk.

The imagery is invariably of musicians and dancers, in tuxedoes, gowns and cocktail dresses. There is one of an oddly angled and elaborately composed view of a carousel, but even here the figures seem to be doing a snake dance.

Garcia is probably the only artist hereabouts who has set out to record this milieu, in the same way Kiko Escora records the Malate party-goers, Toulouse-Lautrec the Parisian demi-monde, or Degas the ballet dancers.

There is a fluidity of color and line that the artist instinctively exploits for his theme and subject. *"Kahit gaano kabilis ako magtrabaho, ganyan lang lumalabas,"* he reveals.

A special blending

The paintings are near-monochromatic, rendered in black, white, and warm tones of brown, especially golden brown and a rich reddish brown. The artist is particularly fond of this last hue as it is "bold but sober, thus more versatile."

Just as notable are the looks of the figures. They're uniformly faceless and baldheaded, like mannequins dancing cheek to cheek or playing the cello.

Garcia says he wants to show emotion not through facial expression but through the figures' aura and poses. He believes viewers can relate more with such images, as they can compose the features in their mind and fill in the blanks.

Finely inscribed on the canvas in his own handwriting is a sort of artist's diary, relating the processes or what he was doing or going through at the time he was working on the piece. Often included is a personal prayer.

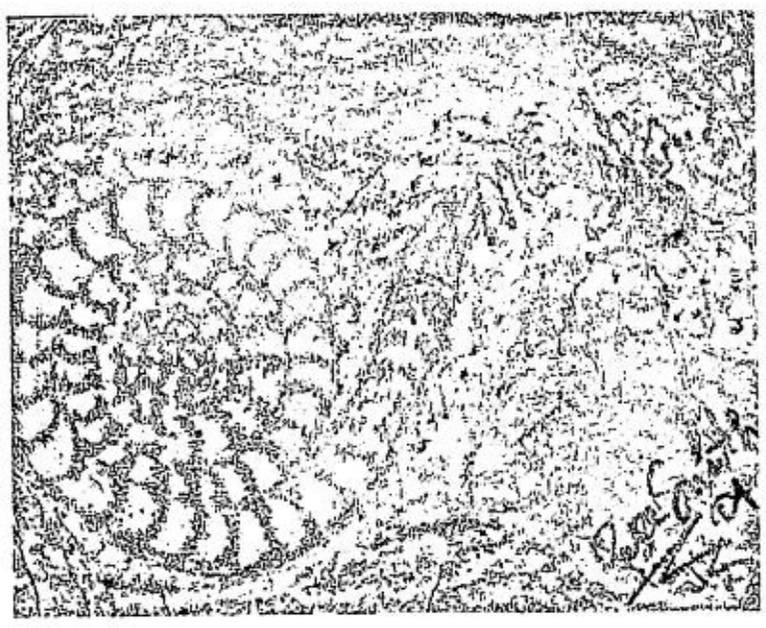
Garcia has a Bachelor of Fine Arts, major in Painting, from University of Santo Tomas. Artists he admires include Munch, Toulouse-Lautrec, Degas, Chagall, Bonnard, Onib Olmedo, Federico Alcuaz. One look and you see the extent of influence of those masters on this young man.

In fact, his piece "The Dance" is a reworking of a Munch painting, rendered in his special brand of blending impressionism and expressionism.

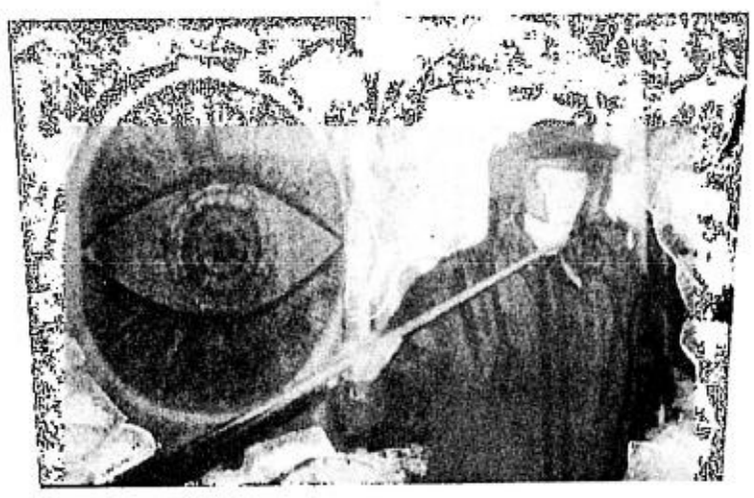
The social realist is likely to dismiss this as just technique, purely aesthetic—ethereality with no conscience at all. Toulouse-Lautrec, after all, wasn't just painting cafés and cabarets but a harsh world that appears to be disintegrating in acid.

"I just paint *depende sa nangyayari sa buhay ko*," says Garcia.

For now, he seems to be still floating on a cloud of romance. It is what gives his paintings their lyrical quality. Now, this art would be irrelevant if to soothe the spirit is irrelevant.



"PEPPERMINT Snail," by Joey "Pepe" Smith



"A DIFFERENT Pepe" 5, by Alfred Sarino

THE ORGANIZERS, artists and cancer survivors who work together on "Uncovering Life," Avon's art exhibit-auction to benefit breast cancer patients. At extreme right (standing) is Sen. Pia Cayetano.
PHOTOS: AUGUST DE LA CRUZ

Art that gives life

ARTIST Lydia Velasco with Cecile Guidote Alvarez

ARACELI Dans with Lydia Paredes

"UNCOVERING LIFE," Avon's art exhibit-auction, brought together 12 breast cancer survivors and 15 artists in an evening for a cause. The event, held at The Peninsula Manila's Rigodon Ballroom, generated P595,500, which will be used to help 23 cancer patients pay for chemotherapy sessions which cost about P36,000 every time.

Avon is a major corporate supporter for the breast-cancer cause in partnership with the Philippine Cancer Society and the Philippine General Hospital. The event marked the third year of Avon's Kiss Goodbye to Breast Cancer (KGBC) campaign.

Aside from the art pieces, the event also featured black and white portraits of these remarkable women done by June de Leon. Launching the evening's successful show were Philippine Daily INQUIRER board chair Marixi Prieto and Sen. Pia Cayetano.

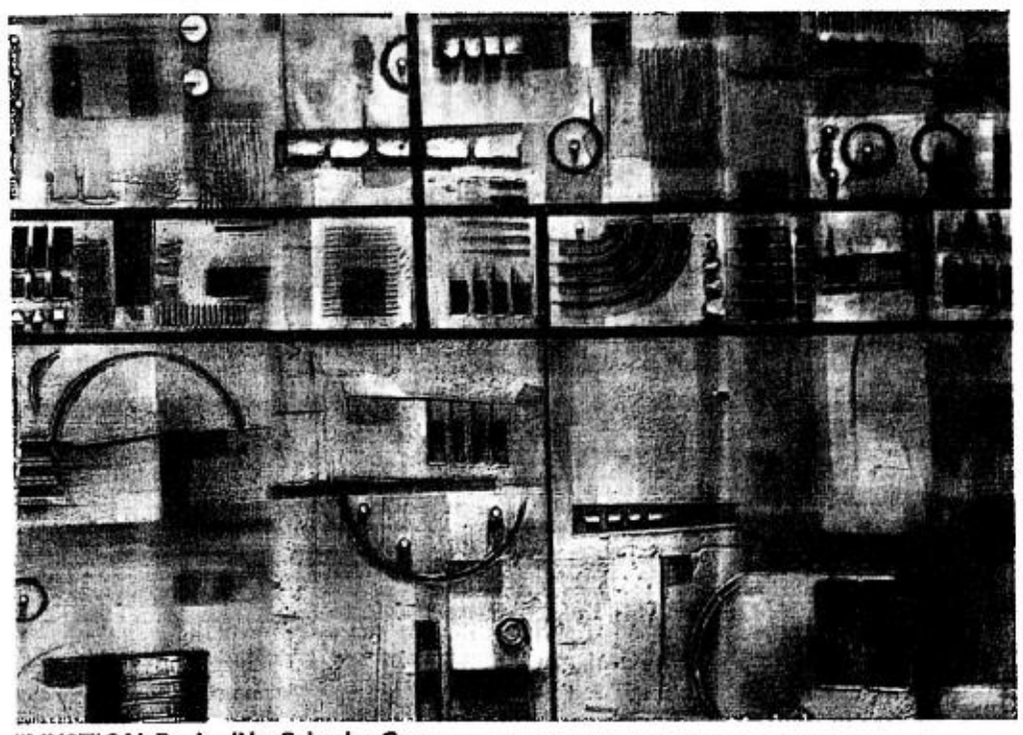
Twelve breast-cancer survivors served as inspirations for the artworks: former senator Eva Estrada Kalaw; environmentalist Cecile Guidote Alvarez; artist Lydia Paredes; journalists Kara Magsanoc-Alikpala, and Ann Montemar-Oriondo; economist Cristina David; educator Carol Porio; neurosurgeon Dr. Ma. Socorro Martinez, corporate executive Linda Panutat, flight attendant Gay Gomez; advertising and corporate communications professional Meryl Graham Schlachterman; and children and women's cause advocate Dulce Saguisag.

Creating art pieces in their honor were Imelda Cajipe-Endaya, Araceli Limcaco Dans, Ivi Avellana Cosio, Lanelle Abueva Fernando, Janice Liuson-Young, Lia Torralba, Nona Garcia, Honey Banal, Lydia Velasco, Jeannie Javelosa, Susan Fetalvero-Roces, Paulina Constancia, Agnes Arellano, Julie Lluch, and Impy Pilapil, in an event that paid tribute to all women who continue to fight the good fight against breast cancer.

INQUIRER editor in chief Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc, Kara Magsanoc and INQUIRER chair Marixi Prieto

"FOREST Maiden," by Hermes Alegre

"TWO Women," by Alegre



"MYSTICAL Realm," by Salvador Convocar

Ancient visions

By Gino Dormiendo
Contributor

THE WORK of Salvador "Buds" Convocar has been derived primarily from the relics of ancient civilizations that continue to haunt the modern imagination, particularly those of prehistoric provenance such as the Aztecs and the Mayans.

Long fascinated with the artifacts of their evolution as manifested in their highly developed modes of cultural life, Convocar has time and again ventured into the dawn of civilization, exploring the signs and symbols that characterize these primeval societies in his canvases.

With his rich arsenal of information culled mainly from "Chariots of the Gods" and other related readings, as well as movies like M. Night Shyamalan's "Signs" and "Sixth Sense," the artist unravels the same mysteries that lie at the core of his artistic wellspring in his latest solo exhibit (Renaissance Gallery, SM Megamall, until Oct. 29).

In the past, he repeatedly worked on the horse as icon and perennial subject, painting it with metallic hues as befits the quintessential symbol of speed, virility and industry.

The artist's fascination does not stop with the visual representation of a particular sign, such as the markings on the visual grid, but, in fact, subsumes the larger worldview at hand, reveling in the artist's license to reinterpret the remote past as he sees fit.

Signature medium

While many of the pieces are in mixed media, an entire suite is devoted to watercolor, the artist's signature medium, in identical sizes and disparate colors. What is particularly discernible is the view the artist has taken, an omniscient view from a disconcertingly acute angle, undoubtedly a vantage point to highlight the large and broad strokes which are both fittingly spontaneous and solid.

Convocar has developed a style uniquely his own and, indeed, difficult to copy and replicate. The process, he says, is tedious and truly exhausting, from the application of textures and basic tone all the way to the final washes. The style is a supreme tribute to the tenets of Abstract Expressionism—the merging of reason and intuition, of the mind and emotion.

Equally fascinating to the eye are the markings he creates on his canvases, ranging from curvilinear shapes to serial windows, down to the infinitesimal specks that have a life of their own when viewed from afar.

The colors of Convocar's canvases are no longer limited to his usual earth tones, as he now has experimented with blue or black in a couple of small pieces, "Teknoblu" and "Transcendental Playground"—works he deliberately made as a breather from his trademark orange and beige.

What easily stands out in this show is a large 6 ft-x-4 ft canvas called "Lemurian Labyrinth." With the multi-level grids and cross-sections of habitats he has conjured of that ancient city we call Lemuria, he paints an imposing picture of this civilization. It's a work that's visually mesmerizing and truly grandiose in its sweep.

Which is what exactly the subject requires in size, sweep and substance. Convocar has, in fact, announced that his next show by yearend will be large-scale—a whole plywood for every composition, which he has never done before.

Primitive eye

An artist endowed with that famously primitive eye, insofar as subject and technique are concerned, Hermes Alegre is showing a suite of new works in paper in Metro Gallery (P. Guevarra, San Juan, beside Café Ysabel).

This is not, of course, the first time he has exploited the medium to enable his collectors to buy his work at specially reduced prices, being a veteran of countless sketching and on-the-spot sessions now sweeping the local art world.

But these particular paper works reiterate the iconography of the artist who works furiously and indeed frenziedly. He likes to depict his female subject as an alluring seductress with large round eyes, full lips and a mean pout.

In these works, Alegre does not confine his subject to women, but expands the terrain to include other signs and symbols that enhance their sensuality. Such elements as waterfalls cascading or luscious red wild berries can certainly enhance the temporal pleasures of the viewer within the realm of portraiture.

Which is what this suite really aspires to be, no more and no less—by an artist with no pretenses at saying much more than what he paints.

E-mail the author at gdormiendo@yahoo.com

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Manila to mark Dvorak centennial

LEOS Svarovsky, conductor of the Brno Philharmonic Orchestra

By Antonio C. Hila
Contributor

TOYOTA Motor Philippines Corporation is presenting the Brno Philharmonic Orchestra for its 15th Toyota Classics-A World of Harmony presentation on Nov. 10, 8 p.m., at Teatro Aguinaldo, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

MANILA/ E2

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A musical dynamo named Placid

SR. Mary Placid Abejo, OSB, dean of the College of Music of St. Scholastica's College, turns 70 on Oct. 31.

By J. Greg Zuniega
Contributor

SATURDAY mornings at St. Scholastica's College always see this ubiquitous wimpled figure—friend, confidante and mentor to thousands of students of music—doing her routine inspection of the corridors and classrooms of the School of Music.

There, children eagerly congregate, their musical instruments proudly clutched, waiting for their music lessons or for their orchestral rehearsals for the day. They also wait expectantly for her ready rewards of candies and cookies, and tinfoil stickers or stars which she gives away especially when pleased with the pupils' performance.

On weekdays, she holds office, listens and gives advice to countless students who freely consult her about their myriad problems inside or outside the classroom.

She derives pleasure from unexpected visits of alumni or friends that almost always lead to discussions about how to encourage the Filipino youth to take up music.

"Instead of getting into mischief and hurling stones at each other, let our young people pick up a musical instrument so that they may find fulfillment in life through music. Imagine this happening all over and our country would be a lot better off," she said once.

Icon and pioneer

Sr. Mary Placid Abejo, O.S.B., a national icon and respected pioneer in music education in the Philippines, is the dean of music of St. Scholastica's College. She turns 70 on Oct. 31.

After obtaining her bachelor's degree in Piano at St. Scholastica's College, Sister Placid took up postgraduate studies at University of Michigan in the United States and obtained a Ph.D. in Music Education.

Upon her return to Manila in the 1970s, she scoured barangays all over the country for young talents. Those chosen were given scholarships, forming the Kabataang St. Scho Symphonic Band. Some of these young boys and girls later became members of the Manila Youth Symphony Orchestra (MYSO) and were privileged to come under the tutelage and directorship of Prof. Basilio Manalo.

Then, together with some of the country's musical leaders, Sister Placid reinvigorated the Piano Teachers' Guild of the Philippines, a nationwide organization promoting quality in piano pedagogy and performance.

Many successful pianists attest to Sister Placid's devotion to the guild's annual festivals and master classes, which have provided them strong foundations in their concert careers.

In 1985, Sister Placid and Prof. Manalo cofounded Predis (Philippine Research for Developing Instrumental Soloists) to serve as a training ground for deserving string instrumentalists.

A stalwart in the Music subcommittee of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, Sister Placid has been in the forefront of promoting Filipino musical artistry in various venues, such as those sponsored by the Philippine Society for Music Educators (PSME), the Chopin Society of the Philippines and the National Competition for Young Artists (NAMCYA) where she occasionally serves as a juror in different categories.

True to her name, she has also proven to be a peacemaker in the occasionally rough musical arena. Distraught souls and troubled minds constantly turn to her for advice, encouragement and solace.

But when the occasion demands, she can also turn into a no-nonsense and fearless advocate of responsibility, discipline and selfless service. She goes the extra mile to rehearse with a student if a teacher fails to turn up for music lessons.

A stickler for organization and precision, she takes it upon herself to provide materials for the scripts of resource persons for their music lectures.

Foreign campaigns

Her campaign for music education has taken her to foreign lands in search of new concepts and methods, materials and devices. After each sojourn, this diminutive nun would invariably be seen at the airport with huge *balikbayan* boxes and crates containing secondhand musical instruments, textbooks, musical scores, even medical equipment!

For everything she has done in the name of Filipino music education, this extraordinary nun deserves our profoundest gratitude and respect

This untiring resolve to give needy but deserving students that golden opportunity to take up music and excel in their own instruments or to equip music teachers with the necessary tools to better formulate their classroom strategies have become nothing short of legendary. Mention her name anywhere in the Philippines, as I found out in our nationwide outreach concerts/seminars, or in a major city anywhere in the world, as Filipino artists based abroad avow, and there will be people around who know and cherish fond memories of her.

This year, Sister Placid reaches a milestone in her life. The tradition of musicality and discipline passed on by the German nuns of Tutzing and perpetuated by Sister Placid and her predecessors have made it possible for students and lovers of music and the public to enjoy the benefits of one of the best music programs in the Philippines.

The college's prestigious concert venue—St. Cecilia's Hall—renovated and fully functional, would not be what it is today were it not for the dedicated efforts of Sister Placid in raising the funds for it, coupled with her keen eye for engineering!

Countless Scholasticans who have excelled in music ascribe their success to their early years of training under the capable baton of Sister Placid. They have either won the National Artist award, moved on to study abroad, pursued active performing careers or chosen the noble vocation of teaching. And they all attest to have had that rare privilege of experiencing the Placid regime of encouragement and relentless drive for musical excellence.

For all the years spent and still to be spent in fulfilling the vision that she shares with SSC Music School founder Sr. Baptista Battig—"to see the dear children of the East rise in the musical world to the same level as those of the West"—as well as for the hundreds, if not thousands of lives that she has touched, Sr. Placid deserves her countrymen's profoundest gratitude and respect.

Manila to mark Dvorak ...

From page E1

The Manila concert is the last leg of the orchestra's Asian concert tour that covers five other cities: Singapore, Taipei, Ho Chi Minh, Seoul and Hong Kong, sponsored by Toyota Motor Corporation (TMC), in cooperation with its distributors in the host cities.

Toyota Classics is TMC's contribution to musical culture, bringing classical music to the peoples of Asia.

Fund-raiser

Proceeds of the concert will go to Pondo ng Pinoy Community Foundation Inc., a charitable organization under the direct supervision of Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales of Manila.

The all-Antonin Dvorak (1841-1904) program commemorates the centennial of the composer's death, which is being observed worldwide. Featured works are Slavonic Dance No. 2 Op.72, Concerto for Cello and Orchestra in B minor B191 Op. 104 and Symphony No. 9 in E minor, Op. 95.

Leos Svarovsky conducts the orchestra and cellist Renato B. Lucas is featured soloist.

Great tradition

The 115-member Brno Philharmonic is one of Central Europe's largest orchestras. Founded by Leos Janacek, it carries on a great orchestral tradition and has become the focal point of Brno's concert life. It has been conducted by the world's best, including the legendary Charles Munch, Kurt Masur, Gaetano Delogu and Yehudi Menuhin.

Since 2002, Petr Altricher, former chief conductor of the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, has become its principal conductor.

Apart from participating in international festivals in Brno, Prague, Berlin, Innsbruck, Bratislava, Munich and Antwerp, to mention a few, it has also performed in Japan, South Korea, Argentina, Uruguay and the United States. It performed at the Vatican as the Czech Republic's gift to the Holy Father during the 2000 Jubilee celebration.

Guest conductor

Svarovsky is one of the guest conductors of the Brno Philharmonic Orchestra. He is the principal conductor of the Czech Chamber Philharmonic Orchestra of Pardubice and is the artistic director of the State Opera Prague. He has worked with the Shanghai Radio Symphony Orchestra and the Seoul Philharmonic Orchestra. He has also served as principal conductor of several Czech and Slovak orchestras such as the Brno Philharmonic Orchestra, the Prague Chamber Orchestra, the Prague National Theater Ballet Company and the Slovak Philharmonic Orchestra.

Lucas is one of the country's leading cellists. The principal cellist of the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra, he is a faculty member of the University of Santo Tomas Conservatory of Music where he is also the conductor and music director of the UST Symphony Orchestra.

He studied at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music in the US, and was a DAAD and British Council Fellow in Germany and England, respectively. Lucas also has a master's degree in history from UST.

Following his recording of Bruch's Kol Nidre, which earned rave reviews, he recently cut another compact disc, "Romances for the Cello," featuring works of Filipino composers.

Call Ticketworld at 8915610.

CELLIST Renato Lucas

AUSTRIA'S world-renowned singing ambassadors will give two Manila concerts on Nov. 9-10 for the benefit of the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra.

Vienna Boys Choir sings for PPO

By Antonio C. Hila
Contributor

THE VIENNA Boys Choir is slated to give two special concerts for the benefit of the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra (PPO) on Nov. 9 and 10 at the Aliw Theatre, CCP Complex, and the St. Joseph Church, which houses the historic Bamboo Organ at Las Piñas, respectively.

The choir will be billeted at the Manila Peninsula. According to Nedy Tantoco, president of Rustan Marketing Corporation, and H.E. Ambassador Christian Krepela, the fund-drive concert expects to raise a couple of a million pesos earmarked for the replacement of the old instruments of the PPO, the country's national treasure.

The Vienna Boys Choir counts more than 500 years of glorious musical history, first as a court choir during the reign of Maximilian I in 1498, until it became known by its present name in 1924, six years after the monarchy ended in 1918.

From its foundation until today, the choir sings every Sunday at Vienna's Hofburg Chapel. Some 100 boys are trained and are divided into four groups that are sent on a tour for 9-11 weeks a year, virtually becoming Austria's singing ambassadors. They perform a repertoire of renaissance and contemporary crossover songs (such as the theme from the movie "Titanic").

A musical treasure from faraway Europe is coming to Manila to rescue another treasure from extinction

Appearing in naval-inspired attire, the Vienna Boys Choir has wowed audiences the world over with their angelic voices. It has been conducted by some of the 20th-century's great conductors such as Herbert Karajan, Lorin Maazel, Sir George Solti, Claudio Abbado, Leonard Bernstein and Riccardo Muti. Composers like Haydn, Mozart, Bruckner, Salieri and Schubert had composed pieces for it. Haydn and Schubert in fact had sung with it.

Undoubtedly, the Vienna Boys choir is Austria's treasure. The concert is thus a laudable effort as a national treasure from faraway Europe comes to rescue another treasure, the PPO, from extinction.

CCP president Nestor Jardin said the instruments, especially the winds, are crumbling. He cites the case of the worn-out French horns, which should have been junked but, because of dire need, are still very much in use. An estimated P40 million needs to be raised for the purchase of a new set of instruments to keep the sterling quality of the PPO, reputedly one of Asia's best symphony orchestras.

Mont Blanc Fragrances and the Philippine and Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) are the sponsors of the Nov. 9 concert. Other sponsors are Malayan Insurance and Ralph's Wines and Spirits. The concert is coproduced by the CCP and the Manila Broadcasting Company.

Call 9115555, 8915610, 8919999 or 8323704.

The 1970s live again

By Amadís Ma. Guerrero
Contributor

IN THE LATE 1960s and early 1970s, the years before martial law, Luis V. Teodoro was a leading practitioner of the short story, along with such stalwarts as Ninotchka Rosca, Cirilo F. Bautista (who was more of a poet), and the Cebuano writers Resil B. Mojares and Renato Madrid.

This was the generation that came right after Gregorio C. Brilliantes and Gilda Cordero-Fernando. They blended style with content, and were published in the Free Press and Graphic magazines.

"The Undiscovered Country" (UP Press, 2004, 130 pages), a collection of stories by Teodoro, who is also a journalist and educator, is thus long overdue, and allows us to better assess his contributions to Philippine literature in English.

Bleak mood

The melancholia of Manolo, the protagonist of "In Transit," pervades this story about a failed relationship, with Manolo shifting from one country to another, and perhaps from one chapter of his life to another. The mood is bleak, and there is no guarantee that Manolo will find the love and peace of mind he longs for.

In "The 13th Disciple," we enter (rather, re-enter) the world of the 1960s, with its witch-hunts, radical activists, and demonstrations before the US Embassy. Fred, Fort and the narrator form a troika: Fred, the son of a farmer, is a radical who opts to join the Establishment and marries into a rich family; Fort remains true to the progressive ideals of his youth, while dangling between them, like Saul Bellow's Dangling Man, is the narrator, studiously pursuing a middle course. A violent dispersal of a demo before the US Embassy bring the three together again after several years.

"The Trial of Professor Riesgo," which won a Palanca Award, is subtle and introspective. The professor is like his house, whose "paper-thin walls afforded little protection from anyone who might want to get in..." In this case, it is the military who wants to get in, for Riesgo has been charged with "inciting to rebellion."

This book brings us back to the pre-martial law era, when writers grappled with social issues and transformed them into fine fiction

As the trial progresses, however, we get to know the professor through his thoughts, inner conflict and sharpened senses as he realizes that his real "crime" is turning his back on his earlier principles.

"The Adversary" is a story of awakening. To help his mother make ends meet, the narrator (also surnamed Riesgo), a college sophomore, drops out of school and goes to work as a chauffeur for the Secretary, a one-book intellectual who has since joined the government.

There is a symbolic interplay of historical names here. The Secretary is called Miong (Emilio Aguinaldo's nickname). He employs a gardener who is a future revolutionary, Elias (like the Rizal character). And the younger brother of Elias, who longs to be a professional someday, is called José (like the national hero). It is with the radicals that Riesgo identifies with.

Personal liberation

An air of menace and uncertainty hangs over "The Distant City." Here we have another troika—Noel, his live-in partner Guia and their athletic friend Pete. But the focus is on Noel and his relationship with Guia which, along with their political activities, has raised eyebrows in the sectarian university where they teach. Noel launches his quest for personal liberation, which he equates with the movement for national liberation.

The title story, "The Undiscovered Country," is another story of awakening, a kind of belated coming-of-political-age tale. Anne, the American wife of a Filipino scientist, slowly realizes that her husband, Dr. Olvido (Spanish for forgotten), is not one who will fight for his academic rights.

Then she meets the student radical Fortunato Riesgo (yes, the same Fort Riesgo of "The 13th Disciple" but not to be confused with Professor Riesgo of the other story), and gradually Anne becomes aware of what her government has been doing to the Philippines since 1899 to the present.

This book brings us back to the pre-martial law era, when writers grappled with social issues and transformed these into fine fiction, which deserves a second reading after three decades. Writers wrote then to be published in magazines and to be read, and not just for awards (although hooray if you won one).

Looking back to that period through admittedly subjective eyes, one can say it was a kind of Golden Age of the Filipino short story in English.

Book reveals century-old Balangiga war secrets

ON Sept. 28, 1901, the United States Army suffered one of its most humiliating defeats in the hands of Filipinos during the Philippine-American War in the remote town of Balangiga in Eastern Samar.

For over a hundred years, however, the attack and its bloody aftermath has held its secrets. Well, until now. A new book by Subic-based writer Bob Couttie reveals much of what American and Filipino historians have written about the attack and the Samar campaign have been based on myth.

Published by New Day Publishers, "Hang The Dogs: The True Tragic History of the Balangiga Massacre" is based on a 10-year research program carried out by Couttie, together with Leyte-Samar historian Prof. Rolando Borrinaga and Arizona-based Jean Wall, daughter of a survivor of the attack.

The 462-page, five-part book establishes an expanded historical context for the attack of the natives on Company C of the Ninth US Infantry Regiment in Balangiga, which resulted from a string of abuses the soldiers had committed against the populace. Two officers of the Company were killed and the rest of the troops were nearly decimated by poorly-armed townsfolk who executed a masterful strategy.

The Balangiga Church bells which were tolled during the attack were taken as war trophies by the American troops who retaliated. The bells, on display at US military camps in Wyoming and Korea, have been the subject of retrieval attempts by the Philippine government. The return of the relics is the last issue of contention between the US and the Philippines relating to the Fil-Am War.

"Back in the 1930s, someone who knew everything about the Balangiga attack from the American side wrote that the true story could never be told. We've managed to piece together original documents and interviews that reveal a very different story than the one usually found in history books, and one that seems to fit what the Balangiganons themselves say happened," says Couttie.

The author is a former correspondent, an experienced British director, screenwriter, radio playwright and co-founder of the first independent newspaper for Filipinos in London. He is also co-founder of the Tacloban City-based Balangiga Research Group, which continues to unearth the untold stories of the Balangiga Incident.

"Hang The Dogs" is available in leading bookstores. Call 9288046 or 9275982 or e-mail newdayorders@edsamail.com.ph

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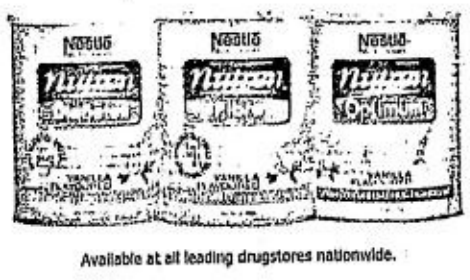

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Changing of the guards at Subic

PGMA lauds excellent performance of Payumo

By Rey Garcia

Turnover of SBMA leadership, (from left) Felicito Payumo, outgoing SBMA Chairman and Administrator, Francisco Licuanan III, incoming SBMA Chairman and Alfredo Antonio, incoming SBMA Administrator and CEO

PHOTO BY A. SISON JR.

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT-President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo lauded Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) Chair Felicito C. Payumo for his excellent performance leading the country's premier Freeport Zone for the past six years to greater heights.

"With Chairman Felicito C. Payumo at the helm for six years, we have made Subic progressive and globally competitive," said President Arroyo who included Subic and Clark Economic Zone as part of the 10-point economic agenda.

The President added, "Our great vision is for Subic to become the logistics and service hub in Southeast Asia. I am confident that with the concrete steps we have taken, we will soon realize this goal."

"I am pleased to note that the swift movement of people, goods, and services to and from Subic has brought in substantial investments that created ample economic opportunities and benefits for our people," she said.

The salutation came after Payumo reported the accomplishments of SBMA in terms of job generation, growing investment portfolio, export performance and revenue contribution to the national treasury, on the occasion of his 6th anniversary as Chairman and Administrator of SBMA.

In her congratulatory message, Arroyo also said, "This occasion gives you an opportunity to forge stronger ties among you and to set your sights to a high level of efficiency and excellence to meet the demands of our growing economy."

Arroyo likewise said that she trusts that the work ethic and spirit by the workers at Subic will continue to inspire Filipinos to strive harder in their individual and collective endeavors.

For his part, Payumo expressed gratitude to all the people who have contributed to the success of business in the Freeport for it has boomed in this part of the Central Luzon Growth Corridor as it became a major driving force in the national economic agenda being at the forefront of development in this part of the country.

In the same message, Arroyo also acknowledged the staff behind The Freeport Community, the official news digest of the SBMA, on their 4th anniversary, for living up to their mission and social responsibilities to the nation. "Let us work together in tapping the opportunities of the 21st century and in uplifting the lives of our people," she challenged.

In his report, Payumo said that Subic Freeport continues to live up to its reputation as one of the top revenue earners among the country's economic and industrial zones by contributing a cumulative amount of P26.6 billion in cash collections to the national treasury, which were derived from collections by the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) and the Bureau of Customs (BOC). The revenue is estimated about 30 times higher than the equity contribution of the government to SBMA.

During Payumo's administration, a total of 60,421 job opportunities were opened to the residents in adjacent communities in Olongapo City, Zambales and Bataan and as far as Pampanga, Bulacan and Metro Manila compared to only 7,756 six years ago. The employment figure has doubled the 30,000 jobs posted during the peak operations of the US Navy in this former US military installation.

A total of 55,421 were hired by various locators and investors inside the Freeport zone, and about 5,000 are presently employed by the SBMA and its subsidiary firm, Freeport Service Corporation (FSC).

Cumulative export value was pegged at $7.5 billion with $4.14 billion worth of committed investments approved by the SBMA Board of Directors totaling to about 1,000 companies in a span of six years, including several tourism-related businesses that attracted millions of local and foreign visitors.

"Subic Freeport has the potential to do better than this performance. And this will only be possible if people work hand in hand for the better so that Subic Freeport could spur progress and be able to compete in the global arena," Payumo added.

Payumo also completed the World Bank-funded Rizal-Argonaut-Maritan Highway which would be connected to the port to the envisioned Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway project, at a cost of only P533 million, as compared to the government agency estimate of P750 million.

The privatization of the power distribution in SBMA typifies the way Payumo has managed SBMA. He is proud that he has been able to lower power distribution costs in SBMA by a whopping 40 percent, making electricity in the Subic Free Port one of the cheapest among the industrial parks in the country. The power privatization now serves as a model to other economic zones and local government units in the country.

Another hallmark of Payumo's administration of SBMA is the container port project for which he was able to get funding from Japan government-owned financial institution Japan Bank for International Cooperation. The project has become the paradigm of transparent bidding process in the country. SBMA was able to lower the cost of the project by P1.8 billion compared to the original agency estimate.

The SBMA also received the ISO 9001-2000 certification for quality management systems on investor servicing and locator assistance under Payumo. Moreover, Payumo commended the hardworking men and women who have put in their "heart and soul" into their work.

> Payumo commended the hardworking men and women who have put in their "heart and soul" into their work.

'We should run Subic like a business'

By Raquel Gomez

BANKER and former Development Bank of the Philippines chairman Alfredo C. Antonio considers his new post as administrator of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority as both a challenge and an opportunity.

Antonio, whose leadership of DBP in the 1990s made the bank received the "Soundest Development Bank in the World" from Banker's Magazine, is keen on putting his experiences and expertise gained from his posts in government and private institutions in managing SBMA.

Like everyone else tapped for an important post, Antonio said he wanted to make a "meaningful contribution."

"What we're hoping to accomplish within a few months is to come out with key results area and perhaps a five-year time horizon to illustrate what we wish to accomplish within this time frame. We will identify key directions we want to go to, we will identify key milestones that will signal to us whether we are being successful in moving into that direction. We have time-bound action plans with which we can gauge ourselves."

Antonio was appointed by President Macapagal-Arroyo together with Francisco Licuanan III, the new chair of SBMA. Like Antonio, Licuanan was tapped from the private sector. He was the former president of Ayala Land Inc.

Antonio said the new SBMA management team is looking at the Business Process Outsourcing industry as a focus of development and a major growth forecast for SBMA.

Information, communication and technology (ICT) companies, such as Acer, have long been operating in SBMA. But the "magnitude" of these companies, according to Antonio, is just on the initial stage.

"There are certain activities or industries, especially in the service sector, wherein Subic is attractive to investors and locators-and that is the BPOs."

"That is an area within the next five years or more, we will maintain some sort of competitive advantage against other countries doing the same thing."

Antonio has met with locators interested in moving their business in SBMA's industrial park. He is very optimistic about SBMA's transformation into a financial and business center in the future.

"We will continue to build upon the good that our predecessors have accomplished, even as we try to set right what may have been overlooked. We will entice even more multinational investors, yet assure both domestic and foreign locators of a level playing field and continued government support."

The good news, said Antonio, is that Subic has very finite resources. It has leaseable lands where locators can locate. It has terrain that is attractive to tourists.

"Once these finite resources are fully utilized, the natural tendency is for the benefits of economic development to cascade outside Subic."

He has met with local government officials and businessmen in the area for the smooth transition.

"I think the message that we seem to all agree on is that we must run Subic like a business. It's a business where there should be a professional environment, where the rules and regulations are applied consistently to all."

Antonio is a firm believer "that anything can be solved, that there's a solution to everything."

His vision for SBMA is captured in his "mind's eye."

"I see that highway between Subic and Clark, both cars that carry families driving very quickly, some leisurely. There are trucks and possibly a train that are moving goods back and forth. And then I see the surrounding areas with very nice houses, people whose lives have been uplifted because of the development the Subic-Clark alliance has brought to their area. I think that can be done if people can work together as a team, move in one direction as a team."

Antonio's banking career spanned 27 years until his appointment as DBP vice chairman and COO, and eventually as chairman, president and CEO.

Antonio also served as President, CEO and Director of Great Pacific Life Assurance Corporation (GPL), Pacific Plans, Inc. (PPI) and Pan Pacific Computer Center.

He has served as Chairman of the Board of at least 10 different corporations.

Immediately prior to his appointment at the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority, Mr. Antonio was Director of Equity Managers Asia, Inc.; President of Asset Advisers, Inc.; and member of the Board of Directors of Intex Telecom Systems and JP Latex Technology, Inc.

Mr. Antonio has a Master in Business Administration (1972) from Bernard M. Baruch College, City University of New York, and a Bachelor of Science in Economics (1967) from Ateneo de Manila University.

He was born on November 28, 1945 and married to the former Corazon Escueta. They have four children: Benjamin II, Alfredo Jr., Ma. Naomi and Ma. Margarita.

"If we can't do it here in Subic-Clark corridor where else in the country can we do it and having looked at the people of the Subic-Clark organization, if you guys can't do it, nobody else can but I'm sure you can."

--Part of speech of SBMA Chairman Francisco Licuanan III during the SBMA leadership turnover ceremony

The beginning of SBMA's future

(OUTGOING Chair and Administrator Felicito C. Payumo speaks at the SBMA Leadership Turnover Ceremony)

MY CO-WORKERS at SBMA, our investors and partners in development of the Freeport, friends:

Speakers have a tendency to make their valedictory address into an accomplishment report. I have a reason to deviate from that custom, and it is a personal one.

Not that investments and employment, exports, and revenue contributions, and visitor arrival are unimportant. They are, in fact, key indicators of whether or not we are performing the mandate given us by law. And we have been reporting the strides that the Freeport has achieved every year, over the past six years. Thanks to all of you, our locators, who have continued to keep faith with us, and to you, my co-workers, for giving them the level of service they require to be able to compete in the increasingly competitive global market place. And we have also talked of the Port Development Project and the Expressway linking Subic, Clark, and Tarlac. Together, they will transform the landscape of Central Luzon into a competitive logistics hub that the President has mentioned in her 10-point agenda.

Such report involves my talking to you from the mind.

But today, I do not want to speak from my mind. I want to speak from the heart.

Last Friday, you gave me a tribute that I shall forever remember. It was in stark contrast to the reception you gave me six years ago. The mood then was best expressed in a letter that one of you read. With her permission, let me quote:

Dear Chairman Payumo:

In 1998, in the midst of controversy and confusion, you were appointed as Chairman of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority.

"It was a time of uncertainties. . .hatred. . .politicking; surely, it was not the best time to assume leadership over a 'warring' organization. But you still decided to pick up the pieces of a shattered glass.

A shattered glass can never be whole again, no matter how one tries to mend it, but that was the unique thing with you and this organization. You were not only able to make it whole again but in picking up the pieces, you also made it into something else ... something new...something better, stronger.

Some people never really believed that the wound created by the first office order of then President Joseph Estrada could be healed, that suspicion and divisiveness would remain

SBMA/ F4

Subic now a showcase of economic growth

INAUGURAL speech of SBMA Administrator Alfredo C. Antonio at the SBMA Leadership Turnover Ceremony.

MGA minamahal kong kasama sa paglilingkod sa bayan, mga panauhing pandangal and our locator-partners. It is indeed a beautiful morning here at Subic.

Subic has come a long way since the Seventh Fleet left its waters on Nov. 24, 1992. Under the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority, what once was the site of a major arsenal has grown exponentially as a commercial, industrial, recreational and eco-tourism area-largely due to the efforts of my two predecessors and friends-former SBMA Chairmen and Administrators Richard Gordon and Felicito Payumo.

The Subic of today

Thanks to them, Subic is what it is today-a showcase of economic growth activities ranging from infrastructure development, manufacturing and trading to academic institutions, eco-cultural tourist attractions and other services.

Under Richard Gordon, now Senator Gordon, the Subic Bay Freeport became a prime location for commerce and tourism. During the first four years of his administration, SBMA manage to bring in thousands of jobs and some $2 billion worth of investments. It was also during his tenure that Subic welcomed 18 heads of government of Asia-Pacific countries, including former President Ramos, as the venue of APEC in 1996.

SUBICT/ F3

SUBIC GRAIN

Subic Bay Freeport Grain Terminal Services Inc.

Thank you.
Chairman Felicito C. Payumo

Congratulations and Welcome!
SBMA Chairman Francisco H. Licuanan III
SBMA Administrator Alfredo C. Antonio

Subic Bay Freeport Grain Terminal Services, Inc.

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Pioneer Highlands Condominium
Pioneer cor Madison Streets
Mandaluyong City 1552
Telefax : (02) 6874643

Subic Address:
Bldg. 8008 Leyte Wharf, Cubi Point
SBMA, Subic, Zambales 2209
Telefax : (047) 2528776

SUBIC ENERZONE CORPORATION

Thank you.
Chairman Felicito C. Payumo

Congratulations and Welcome!
SBMA Chairman Francisco H. Licuanan III
SBMA Administrator Alfredo C. Antonio

Thank you very much SBMA Chairman and Administrator Felicito C. Payumo for all your support!

Welcome and Mabuhay to the new

SBMA Chairman Francisco Licuanan III

and

SBMA Administrator Alfredo Antonio

from:

Subic Technopark Corporation
Along Argonaut Highway, Boton Area
Subic Bay Freeport Zone 2222
Tel. No.: (047) 252-1710/1712
Fax No.: (047) 252-1708/1709
Email: tsuji@netasia.net/ptumanda@subictel.com
Website: www.subictechnopark.com

Welcome
Chairman Francisco Licuanan
and
Administrator Alfredo Antonio

Thank you
Former Chairman Felicito Payumo
for your support...

from the Management & Staff of:

SUBIC POWER CORP. S P C PHILIPPINES

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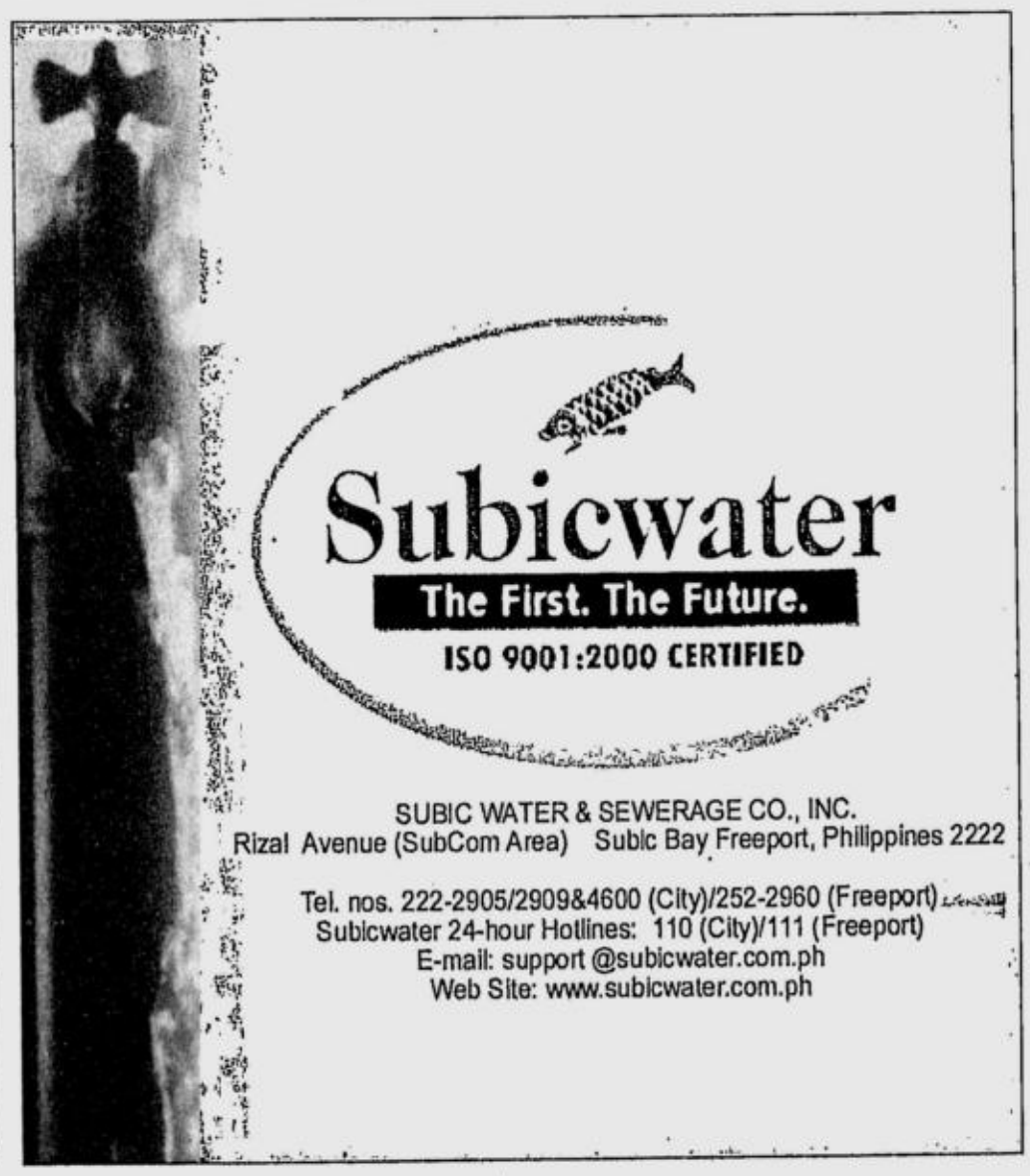
Subic Bay Freeport Zone
Olongapo City



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E-mail: support @subicwater.com.ph
Web Site: www.subicwater.com.ph

Subic now a showcase . . .

From page F2

Equally significant was Tong Payumo's tenure during which even more new jobs were created among the Freeport's locators. Cumulative committed investments exceeded $4 billion. The Freeport's export receipts likewise surpassed the $1 billion mark-a milestone and benchmark, which we hope to build upon.

The accomplishments of the past two SBMA administrations, of course, would not have been possible were it not for the thousands Filipino men and women who make up the workplace of SBMA, its subsidiaries and those of the locators.

Because of them, Subic has become the prime investment site and brightest growth center in the Philippines today.

The Subic of tomorrow

The Subic of tomorrow will play an even more pronounced and vital role in developing the country and economy in the critical years ahead. This is borne out by the fact that the development of Subic, along with that of Clark, is among President Arroyo's 10-point agenda.

In the President's inaugural speech at the Luneta Grandstand, Her Excellency said, and I quote - "The Subic-Clark corridor will be the most competitive international service and logistic center in the Southeast Asian Region"

When completed, the new Subic-Clark-Tarlac road will provide the shortest, most direct and efficient link in Central Luzon, particularly for the Subic Bay Freeport and the Clark Special Economic Zone.

The synergy, therefore, between Subic and Clark can be expected to flourish and enhance each other's productivity and contribution to the development of Central Luzon and the rest of our country.

Yet Subic will not only be a part of President Arroyo's 10-point agenda. We will also be part of the Filipino's quest for meaningful and long-term development-one that does not come at the expense of the

SUBIC/ F4

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Congratulations
&
Welcome !

SBMA Chairman Francisco H. Licuanan III

SBMA Administrator Alfredo C. Antonio

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MOTOR VEHICLE IMPORTERS ASSOCIATION SUBIC

ALLIANCE OF FILIPINO RECONDITIONERS
AUTOMOTIVE REBUILDING INDUSTRIES OF SUBIC

Join in welcoming Chairman Francisco H. Licuanan III and Administrator Alfredo C. Antonio as new leaders of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority in the pursuit of attaining the 10-Point Agenda of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo

Serving the People
Serving the Nation for a Genuine Strong Republic

The beginning of SBMA's future

From page F1

to spread gangrene.

Yet, over time, through your patience, inherent goodness of heart, acuity of wisdom, single-mindedness of purpose and steadfast effort, the wound healed and a new skin covered an ugly scar.

You preserved. You led. You inspired. And soon, we were all walking behind you toward new heights of achievement for SBMA. You have gained the trust, respect and love of the same people who resisted you and whom you are now leaving behind.

It's been six years since you took the bumpy and challenging journey at the helm of the SBMA. The road has come to its end. It is not a dead end, that is for sure, just a fork, a crossroad where you need to stop for awhile and choose a new path to tread. Wherever that path leads you, we know you'll touch people as profoundly as you touched us.

The trouble with hello is goodbye. In 1998, we never really said "hello" because of the turbulent circumstance we were in; so we are not going to say "goodbye" either...because no matter how farther you go from here, no matter how long you will be gone, you have forever etched your name in our lives.

Words are just not enough for what we want to tell you...wonderful stories are too many to contain in one piece of paper...so we are simply going to say..." From the bottom of our hearts...Thank you! Godspeed!"

Now that's a nice going-away present!

It makes the job of moving on, finding and enjoying my new cheese easier. Which brings me to the story of Sniff and Scurry, two little mice, and Hem and Haw, two little people who were all hesitant and afraid to leave their station because that was where their cheese was. Until someone moved their cheese. In many ways we are like these characters in the book, "Who Moved My Cheese?" We are all afraid of change. And I am no exception. It is very hard to let go of the familiar, of what is comfortable, and most especially, of the ones you have learned to love. And it is not hard to fall in love with Subic.

But change happens all the time. They keep moving the cheese. We must anticipate change and get ready for the cheese to move. Our organization must have the "Sniffs to sniff out to changes in the market place, and prompt us to update our vision and strategy." We have more than enough Scurrys who like to take fast actions. They only have to be led to "act according to the new vision, so that they wouldn't scurry off in the wrong direction."

What about the Hems and the Haws? The Hems have their purpose. They are the "anchors that slow us down because they are too comfortable or too afraid to change." It is the job of the leader to explain the changes to make sense to them and increase their sense of security. His job is not just "to manage the daily problems as they came up but to look ahead and pay attention to where he is going."

The leader should be leading, more than just managing.

I am also glad that I have learned to be like Haw. Haw laughed out his fear and painted a picture in his mind, where he saw himself enjoying the new cheese. And he eventually got a better deal. He certainly knows how to practice Creative Visualization. I will start doing that so that I can enjoy my new cheese.

The future global market place, as futurists predict, will be "turbulent and endlessly demanding of the new, the experimental, the faster, the cheaper.". Therefore our organization must always be pushing upward, forward and against complacency.

We can take a lesson or two from the two little mice and the two little people.

Before I end, let me say that I have never felt as secure as I do today, knowing that I will be leaving you in good hands. I have known these two Gentlemen, Chairman Francisco Licuanan III, and Administrator Alfredo Antonio, personally, and I have nothing but commendation for their appointment. Having come from the business sector, they would be familiar with the problems of businessmen. Certainly, there will be new initiatives, and there will be a different style. But they believe in continuity, in building on where this and the past administration have accomplished.

I am also proud that I am turning over to them an organization that is no longer fractured but whole, united, and enthusiastic in showing their support to the new leadership.

And last, an investor community with a restored confidence in the Subic Bay Freeport.

Subic now a showcase . . .

From page F3

ordinary Filipino, or at the cost of our natural resources and environment. We will not only strive to attract foreign investors; we will also seek to arouse Filipino entrepreneurship and competitiveness.

We will continue to build upon the good that our predecessors have accomplished, even as we try to set right what may have been overlooked. We will entice even more multinational investors, yet assure both domestic and foreign locators of a level playing field and continued support.

As we strengthen international business confidence in Subic, so we will reinforce the confidence and pride of the Filipino worker and professional as Subic's major partner in development. As we strive to contribute toward the President's goal of creating more than six million jobs by 2010, so we will seek investments for "jobs not only to come but to stay," as Her Excellency put it in her State of the Nation Address.

We will also help mitigate the country's deficit problem by being more efficient so that every peso redounds to the improvement of the Freeport's future income and economic growth.

In other words, we will not only share the President's vision but also responsibly carry out our task and role in national development. Above all, we will live the Filipino's highest aspiration for government service, a service that truly works and works truly for the people. Isang pagsisilbi na tunay na makatao.

The Subic between today and tomorrow

Between what Subic is today and what it can possibly be tomorrow lays a road that I ask everyone to travel with us.

In many ways, our journey together will serve as a microcosm of our own national journey-for what we can achieve at Subic will reflect what every Filipino is capable of achieving and becoming.

Republic Act No. 7227 has mapped out our journey. Executive Order 365 has clearly delineated our role and task.

In the day-to-day administering of SBMA, nonetheless, we will emphasize duty over privilege, professionalism and excellence over mediocrity, the public good over private gain, the community over the individual and transparency over a hidden agenda. We will strive, on the other hand, to make of the entire SBMA a team of professional men and women who are results-oriented, who share the same goals, vision, passion and culture, and who value and demonstrate not just cohesiveness but also the core values of trust, discipline, service and excellence.

To move from one leg of our journey to the next, we shall rely-not only on the magnificent harbor of Subic or on its impressive infrastructure network, we shall rely mostly on its almost 70,000 skilled workforce who make up Subic's richest resource and whose productivity we intend to harness so that each one of us can make a truly meaningful contribution to what this beautiful country deserve to be.

Our trust and confidence in Subic's workforce is understanddable and well placed - for they fuel the engine of Subic's growth and keep it humming steadily and smoothly. Skilled and dependable as they are, we shall rely on them to help rev up Subic's performance in the race to progress. In their capable hands, we believe, lies the Freeport's capacity to take off to new and higher levels of dynamism, productivity, growth and service, and to emerge as an even bigger, stronger and better net contributor to nation building.

The fact that SBMA has been awarded the ISO 9001:2000 Certificate of Excellence for Investor Servicing and Locator Assitance is as much as a tribute to its past leadership as it is to the commitment of its people to provide total satisfaction and service to all Freeport clientele and stakeholders.

To them, I take my hat off and from them; I ask the firmest support so we can sustain such quality performance.

With everyone on our side, along with the rest of the people of Zambales and Bataan, as well as our countrymen in other nearby Central Luzon provinces, every step of our journey will surely be a positive contribution to the building of a strong republic, the economic vitality of our country and the well-being of the Filipino.

APL
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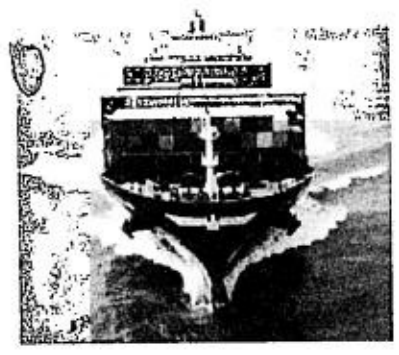
congratulates and welcomes incoming SBMA Chairman

Mr. Francisco Licuanan III



SUBIC OFFICE: Kipping's Point, Subic Free Port, Olongapo
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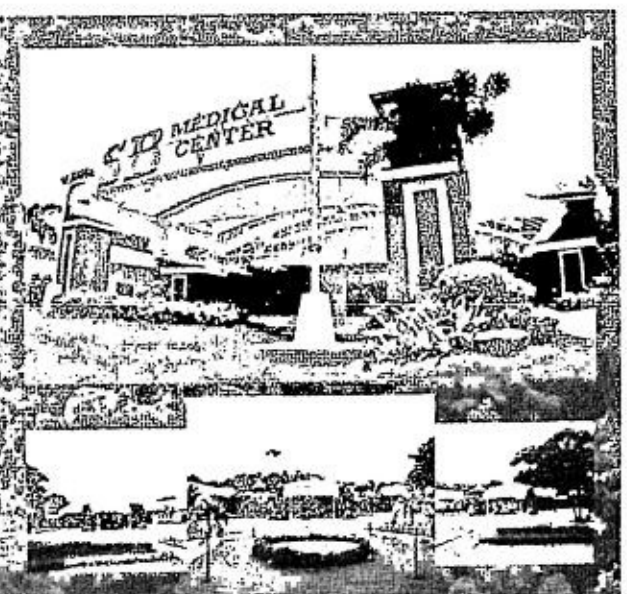
SBMC MEDICAL CENTER

Welcome to the SUBIC BAY MEDICAL CENTER INC., the first and only tertiary hospital that is PhilHealth accredited with a hotel like ambiance in the Subic Bay Freeport Zone. The first hospital in the Philippines to achieve in record time the INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (IMS) Certification (QMS: ISO 9001; EMS: ISO 14001; OHSAS: ISO 18001) in one single audit in exactly 7 months.



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Upper Cubi, Subic Bay Freeport Zone
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Established in 2002, SBMC provides the most comfortable hospital stay in times of infirmity. Located in the midst of a vast luscious jungle, SBMC provides the perfect environment for complete physical and mental calmness to attain 100% recovery. We believe that each patient should receive the best health care our facilities can provide; manned by our courteous and professional staff; we firmly stand on the notion that quality patient care is our principle goal.

SBMC prides itself on being the only health care facility in the region, if not the whole country; on having complete pharmaceuticals and a license to directly import its own supplies. We offer comprehensive diagnostic laboratory tests, and a full service Radiological facility that includes X-ray, Mammography, Ultrasound, Computerized Tomography and the first Magnetic Resonance Imaging in the whole Central Luzon.

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OUR PHYSICIANS - A FUNDAMENTAL STRENGTH - SBMC's more than 90 consultant doctors represent an extensive range of specialties. The physicians have met SBMC's exacting admittance standards and brought with them impressive credentials from the best Philippine Medical and Dental Schools and even international intitutions. Active consultants are Philippine-board certified. Most of the medical staff have international experience from the US, Singapore, Thailand and other parts of the world. With their expertise, they provide health service with care and compassion.

SUBIC BAY WELLNESS CENTER

Subic Bay Medical Center is the only medical institution in the Philippines that has incorporated the use of conventional and alternative medicine. The Subic Bay Wellness Center headed by Dr. Samuel P. Dizon and Dr. Engie D. Domondon is the preferred alternative medicine institution because their programs are geared to improve and assist your body's ability to repair, regenerate and rejuvenate without the use of modalities that may be toxic or may add a burden to an already imbalanced and over worked system. What better place to find mental, physical and spiritual calmness than in the middle of the country's most luscious and preserved rainforest where SBMC is rightfully located.
Subic Bay Wellness Center is the first complementary medicine and risk factor management center in the Philippines. At the Wellness Center you can experience and discover nature's way of healing as a way and means to a better, stronger and more energized you.

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Edu: We need other countries' help

By Jocelyn Valle
Contributor

THE OPTICAL Media Board can succeed in the fight against video and audio piracy only with the help of other Asian countries where the bootleg products come from, according to OMB Chair Edu Manzano.

Edu said, "Eighty-five percent of all the (fake) DVDs in the country come from Malaysia, number one; Indonesia, number two; and China, number three. The ones from Malaysia are of better quality but those from Indonesia and China are cheaper, especially the DVDs from Manado, Indonesia, which come in through the Davao airport. And it's just an hour and 15 minutes away."

The OMB, which used to be known as the Videogram Regulatory Board, is tasked with licking the problem of video piracy in the country.

Edu added that through intelligence sources, his office stopped two planes that carried counterfeit DVDs from entering the country. "But (the others) when they (the pirates) learn that we're waiting for them to land, they change directions and go back to their point of origin," he said. "They can do that because they charter the whole plane. It's really a syndicate."

Cheaper than in RP

He explained that those who illegally obtain copies of Hollywood movies sell their loot to Malaysia, Indonesia and China because production cost there is much lower than in the Philippines.

"And they are so lenient," he said of the other countries. "Last month, I joined one operation in Malaysia and another one in Indonesia. That's why you can't put the blame on the Philippines. Those pirated materials don't come from here. They come from outside. Sometimes *masyado na tayong api*."

"We shouldn't be criticized," he added. "They should stop the piracy at source. You know where these things are coming from, why don't you do something about the source?"

Edu announced that he'd be meeting with his counterparts from other Asian countries in Bangkok. They would organize a summit in the Philippines to be held, hopefully, before December.

The OMB chair said his office has been working closely with the FBI and the United States Custom Service to hit their goal. "And they've told me that despite having limited resources, we've made an impact to the Asean market in terms of confiscation and seizure," he said. "In a way, this will help downgrade our standing in the priority watch."

Although DVD replicating plants also exist in the Philippines, the OMB is more concerned about the mom-and-pop operations that secretly conduct their trade in residences or even schools.

"You just buy five or 10 CD burners which you can put in your bedroom or bathroom, and they can run for 24 hours," he pointed out. "Those operations are harder to nab than the ones that operate plants because the investments [of the former] are bigger."

P20,000, not P120,000

Edu also clarified last week that he earns less than P20,000 a month as head of the Optical Media Board, and not P120,000 as reported here earlier last week.

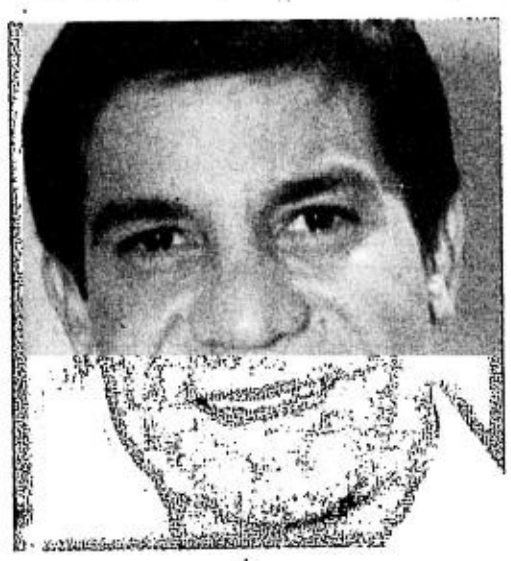
Edu even brought his Oct. 1-15 pay slip to a press conference for his sitcom, "OK, Fine, Whatever," and showed it around. The pay slip said his basic pay was P25,333 with Pera (provisional emergency relief allowance) of P1,000, which made his gross pay a total of P26,333. He had total deductions of P7,058.98 for his contributions to GSIS (P2,279.97), PhilHealth (P187.50), Pag-ibig (P100) and tax of P4, 491.51.

According to his pay slip, Edu's monthly salary was P19,274.02 and for the period of Oct. 1 to 15, he received P9,637.01.

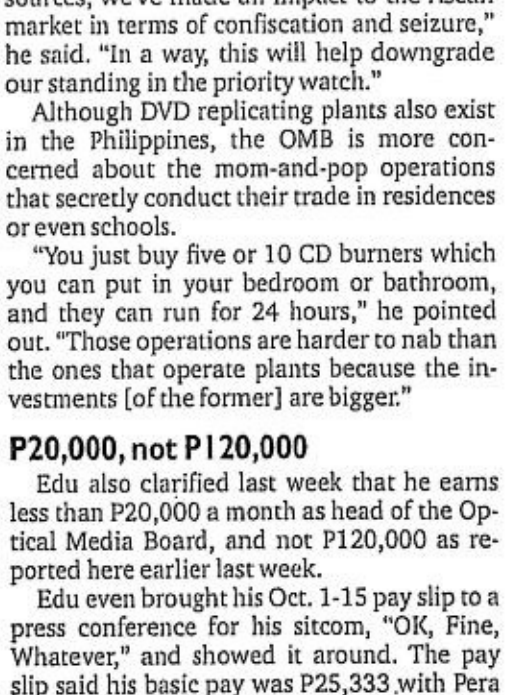
"I just want to make it clear," he said.

He said he was not averse to the call of the Department of Justice for government public officials who also work in show business to resign from their public posts.

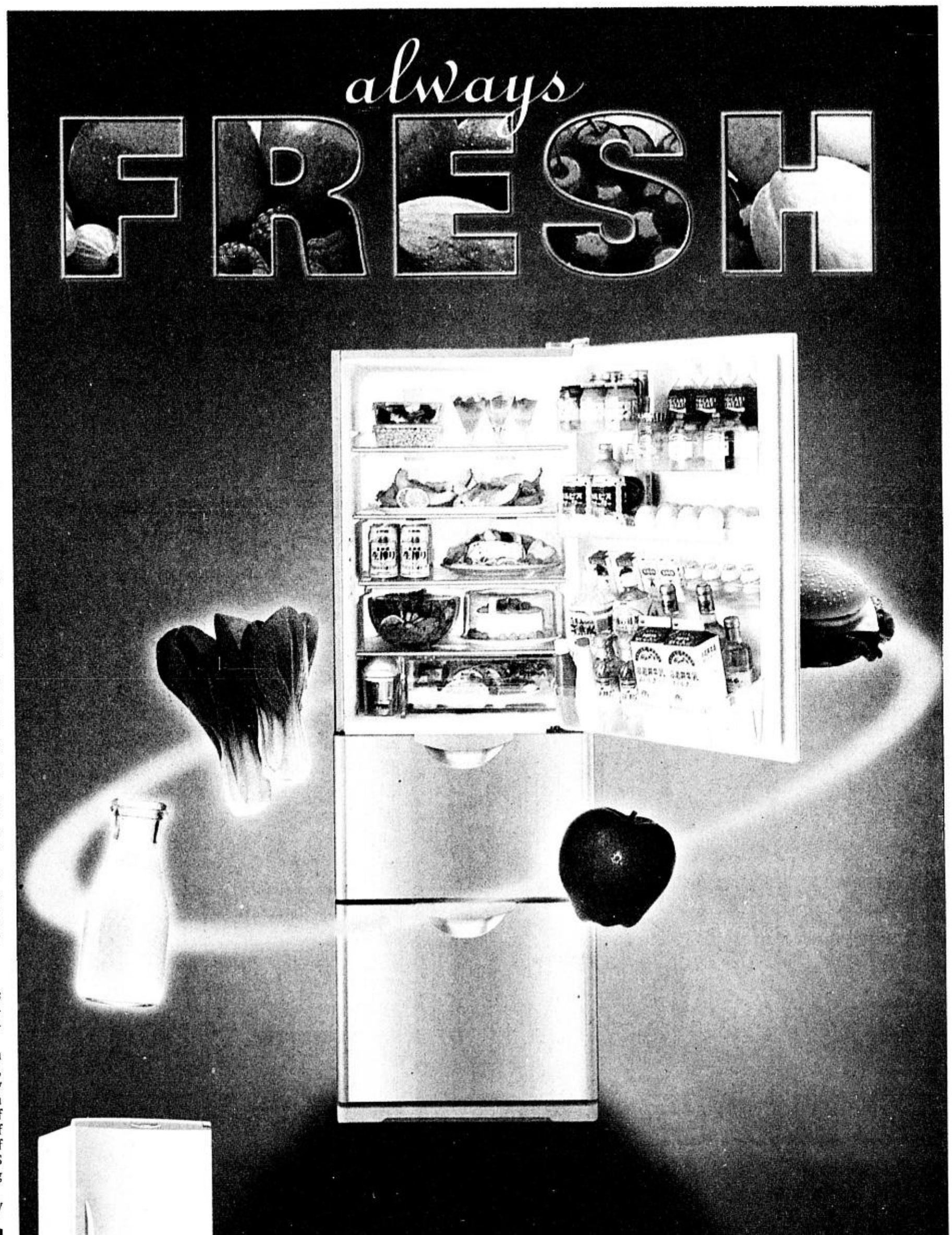
"It's OK to me," he said. "It's up to the President (to decide on the matter)."



MANZANO



STOP the piracy at source, says Edu after seizing illegal videos.



See'emall!

AYALA CINEMAS THX

Movies/schedules may change without prior notice. For verification call 729-7777

ATC (Alabang Town Center)	G1 (Glorietta 1)	G4 (Glorietta 4)		GB3 (Greenbelt 3)	ACC (Ayala Center Cebu)
1 FIRST DAUGHTER	1 WHITE CHICKS	1 WHITE CHICKS	5 SHARK TALE	1 CELLULAR 12:50, 2:55, 5:00, 7:05, 9:10, 11:10	1 THE PUNISHER
2 CELLULAR	2 CELLULAR	2 FIRST DAUGHTER	6 SKY CAPTAIN & THE WORLD OF TOMORROW	2 WIMBLEDON 1:40, 4:00	2 THE DOLL MASTER
3 WHITE CHICKS		3 CELLULAR 12:05, 2:10, 4:15, 6:20, 8:25, 10:30	7 THE DOLL MASTER	3 HOUSE OF FLYINGDAGGERS 1:25, 3:45, 6:05, 8:25, 10:45	3 TWISTED
4 HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS	3 THE DOLL MASTER	4 STEAL		4 WHITE CHICKS 1:30, 3:55, 6:20, 8:45, 11:10	4 SHARK TALE
5 SHARK TALE	4 FIRST DAUGHTER	GB1 (Greenbelt 1)		5 FIRST DAUGHTER 2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00, 11:20	5 SKY CAPTAIN & THE WORLD OF TOMORROW
		1 FIRST DAUGHTER 12:20, 2:40, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40			
		2 WHITE CHICKS 1:30, 3:55, 6:20, 8:45, 11:10			

At the Activity Center

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first daughter

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glorietta 1 & 4
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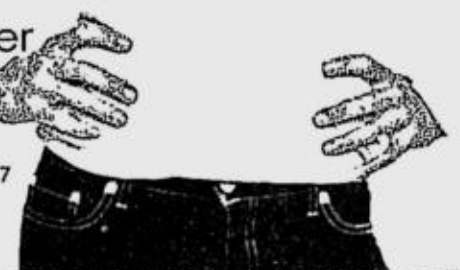

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SM City Bicutan Cinema 1
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SM City Southmall Cinema 3
SM City Fairview Cinema 4
SM Tutuban Cinema 3
SM Supercenter Sucat Cinema 3
SM City Manila Cinema 2
SM City North Edsa Cinema 5
SM Megamall Cinema 3

DOLL MASTER MTRCB Rating: R13

SM City Manila Cinema 9
SM City Sta. Mesa Cinema 6
SM City Southmall Cinema 10
SM City North Edsa Cinema 3
SM Megamall Cinema 12

HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS MTRCB Rating: PG13

SM Megamall Cinema 4
SM City Sta. Mesa Cinema 4
SM City Manila Cinema 6
SM City Fairview Cinema 3
SM City North Edsa Cinema 1

LADDER 49 MTRCB Rating: PG 13

SM City Manila Cinema 3
SM City Sta. Mesa Cinema 10
SM City Bicutan Cinema 4
SM City North Edsa Cinema 8
SM City Southmall Cinema 9
SM Megamall Cinema 10

SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING **SKY CAPTAIN AND THE WORLD OF TOMMOROW**

SM Southmall Cinema 5
SM Megamall Cinema 2
SM City Manila Cinema 1

STEAL SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING

SM City Manila Cinema 11
SM City Sta. Mesa Cinema 5
SM City Bicutan Cinema 3
SM Megamall Cinema 11
SM City Tutuban Cinema 1
SM City North Edsa Cinema 4
SM City Southmall Cinema 8

WHITE CHICKS MTRCB Rating: PG13

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SM City Sta. Mesa Cinema 3
SM City Manila Cinema 4
SM Supercenter Sucat Cinema 2
SM City Southmall Cinema 4
SM City North Edsa Cinema 7
SM City Fairview Cinema 9
SM City Bicutan Cinema 2
SM Megamall Cinema 9

FENG SHUI SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING
SM City Manila Cinema 10
SM City Sta.Mesa Cinema 1
SM City Fairview Cinema 1
SM Megamall Cinema 8
SM City Southmall Cinema 7

RESIDENT EVIL MTRCB Rating: R 13
SM City Manila Cinema 7
SM City Sta.Mesa Cinema 2
SM City Fairview Cinema 5
SM Megamall Cinema 6
SM City Southmall Cinema 6

SHARK TALE MTRCB Rating: GP
SM City Manila Cinema 8
SM City North EDSA Cinema 2
SM City Fairview Cinema 8
SM City Sta. Mesa Cinema 7
SM Southmall Cinema 2
SM Megamall Cinema 5

SNEAK PREVIEW FIRST DAUGHTER
SM City Manila Cinema 5
SM City Sta. Mesa Cinema 8
SM Supercenter Sucat Cinema 1
SM City North Edsa Cinema 6
SM Southmall Cinema 1
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Deadline for submission is on Oct. 29.

The grand finals in the selection of the new singers will be held in a major concert venue before the year ends, with K and the Boxers and other Backroom artists gracing the event.

For more information, call Jonathan Valdez at 435-3808, 928-3121, 435-1098, or 0919-3798777.

The different fires...

From page 4

He turns thoughtful: "We were always our parents' priority. Right now, it would be dishonest of me to say that I could make a family my priority. For the last few years, my priority has been work. So I haven't really considered having a family. I just don't think I could do that right now."

Travolta reflects on being half a century old (he turned 50 last February): "As long as I continue to feel valuable, I won't feel like I'm getting older. It's almost that simple. It's a tough age to be, because you can't pretend that you're a kid anymore.

"At 40, I used to ask, 'Why do you want an autograph from an old geezer like me?' I would pretend I was older than I was. At 50, I can't do that anymore." He laughs, but quickly turns pensive as he announces that he will soon write his autobiography.

He says there will be "a whole chapter" on Princess Diana, with whom he shared a memorable dance at the White House. "There will [also] be chapters on my relationship with Brando, about us being on the phone together, crying over something; my films, children, wife, rubbing elbows with kings and presidents.

"I have too much to talk about," he laughs again. "If I wait any longer, I may have to write two books and I don't want to write two books."

Music and passion always the fashion in 'Lady Salsa'

SEXY Cuban dancers perform with the 11-piece band Azucar.

CIGARS, sugarcane, spicy salsa and impossibly beautiful men and women are not the only pleasures Cuba has to offer. The crown of the Caribbean presents an unforgettable, sensual experience, a celebration of culture, dance and music—"Lady Salsa."

A mix of heat and hedonism, "Lady Salsa" has everything one needs for a night on the town: passionate dancing, rhythmic Cuban music, a gorgeous array of performers, and quite possibly, the most delightful history lesson you'll ever sit through.

"Lady Salsa" charts the story of Cuba hand in hand with the history of its seductive, high-energy contribution to the world of dance, the salsa. The story takes us through the life of Trinidad Rolando Portocarero, Lady Salsa, who becomes a waitress, a backstage dresser to dancers, and finally a singer and actress, in her quest to become a star.

Joining her on this exciting adventure is a troupe of limber, stunningly sexy Cuban dancers and the near-legendary 11-piece salsa band, Azucar.

The musical has received rave reviews the world over. Now, "Lady Salsa" sets her sights on Manila. Shows are between Jan. 12 and Feb. 5, 2005 at the PICC Reception Hall, CCP Complex, on Roxas Boulevard.

The Manila season of "Lady Salsa" is for the benefit of A Child Can Foundation. Tickets will be available at all Ticketworld outlets (891-9999). Call Marga Garcia at 524-6454.

Zeta-Jones sues topless club

LOS ANGELES—Actress Catherine Zeta-Jones has sued a Nevada topless club she said used her image for advertising and promotion without her permission.

The lawsuit filed Thursday in US District Court in Los Angeles said The Spice House, which bills itself as "Reno's friendliest topless cabaret," displayed her picture on "numerous pages" of its website, sometimes alongside partially nude women.

That created the false impression the actress "endorsed or approved of the sexually explicit content" and could "dilute the value of her celebrity endorsement," the lawsuit says.

The Oscar-winning star of "Chicago" and "Intolerable Cruelty" has never authorized the club or its owner, Wesglow Resources, to display her image, according to the lawsuit. She seeks unspecified damages and an order barring further use of her likeness.

Araneta Center ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX

Cinema	Movie	Times
3 (Dolby)	STEAL	12:40 pm 2:45 pm 4:50 pm 6:55 pm 9:00 pm
4	LADDER 49	12:20 pm 2:30 pm 4:40 pm 6.50 pm 9.00 pm
5 (dts)	THE DOLL MASTER	12.40 pm 2:45 pm 4:50 pm 6.55 pm 9:00 pm
6 (Dolby)	THE SIN	12:40 pm 2:45 pm 4:50 pm 6:55 pm 9:00 pm
7 (Dolby)	SKY CAPTAIN	11:00 am 1:30 pm 4 00 pm 6:30 pm 9 00 pm

ARANETA COLISEUM

Date	Event
Oct 27	FEDEX vs COKE
Oct 29	RED BULL vs SAN MIGUEL
Nov 3	ALASKA vs STA LUCIA
Nov 6	AND1 MIX & PBL ALL STAR GAME
Nov 7	COKE vs STA LUCIA
Nov 10	ALASKA vs COKE
Dec 11	JULIO IGLESIAS CONCERT
Dec 25	DISNEY ON ICE : Princess Classics

For tickets, call TicketNet at 911-5555

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	KARELASYON / NAG-AAPOY NA LAMAN
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	TUKSO SI CHARITO
B	CLOSED
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA 1, 2, 3 & 4	FLYING DAGGERS / SHARK TALE / FIRST DAUGHTER / WHITE CHICK
PREMIERE THEATRE	LADDER 49
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	LADDER 49
CINEMA-2	TUKSO SI CHARITO 2
CINEMA-3	FENG SHUI
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	HOUSE OF THE FLYING DAGGERS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	OPEN WATER
CINEMA-6	THE PUNISHER
CINEMA-7	RESIDENT EVIL: APOCALYPSE
CINEMA-8	EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	WHITE CHICKS
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	CELLULAR
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	DOLL MASTER
CINEMA-12	SIN
CINEMA-14	SHARK TAKE
CINEMA-15	SKY CAPTAIN & THE WORLD OF TOMORROW
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
(LAS PINAS)	BOURNE SUPREMACY
CINEMA-1	FENG SHUI
CINEMA-2	SECRET WINDOW
CINEMA-4	[illegible]
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

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For inquiries, call 687-6963
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Cinema	Movie	Times	Rating
1	CELLULAR	11:10, 1:35, 4:00, 6:25, 8:50, 11:10	PG-13
2	WHITE CHICKS	10:45, 1:15, 3:45, 6:15, 8:45, 11:15	PG-13
3	SHARK TALE	11:40, 1:50, 4:00, 6:10, 8:20, 10:30	GP
4	FIRST DAUGHTER (Sneak Preview)	11:10, 1:30, 3:50, 6:10, 8:30, 10:50	GP

POWER PLANT CINEMA

Rockwell Center, Makati City — Tel. No: 8981440-41

LADDER 49 PG13 12:20,2:45,5:10,7:35,10:00	SHARK TALE GP 12:00,1:50,3:40,5:30 / STEAL R13 7:30,9:30	FIRST DAUGHTER GP 12:50,3:10,5:30,7:50,10:10
WHITE CHICKS PG13 12:40,3:00,5:20,7:40,10:05	SKY CAPTAIN GP 12:40,3:00,5:20,7:40,10:00	CELLULAR PG13 1:25,3:35,5:45, 7:55,10:00

MATINEE SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - P 81 - MON. TO FRI.

SHANG CINEPLEX

1. HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS — FS: 11:20AM, 2PM; LMF: 4:40 PM (PG-13 with Caution)
2. SHARK TALE — FS: 11:30AM, 1:30PM, 3:30PM, 5:30PM, 7:30PM; LMF: 9:30 PM (GP)
3. FIRST DAUGHTER — FS: 12:50PM, 3:10PM, 5:30PM, 7:50PM; LMF: 10:10 PM (GP)
4. WHITE CHICKS — FS: 12PM, 2:30PM, 5PM, 7:30PM; LMF: 10 PM (PG-13)

PREMIERE THEATRE — LADDER 49 — FS: 11:40AM, 2:15PM, 4:50PM, 7:25PM; LMF: 10 PM (PG-13)

For more information please call 633-2227 / 633-7861 loc. 171 — Shangri-La Plaza

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Cinema	Movie	Times	Rating
1	WHITE CHICKS	11:30, 1:50, 4:10, 6:30, 8:55	PG13
2	CELLULAR	11:35, 1:55, 4:15, 6:35, 8:55	PG13

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GALLERIA — 632-9115 to 16

Cinema	Movie	Times
1 (THX)	LADDER 49	11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00
2	THE DOLL MASTER	11:35, 1:40, 3:45, 5:50, 7:55, 10:00
3	STEAL	11:35, 1:40, 3:45, 5:50, 7:55, 10:00
4	THE SIN	11:35, 1:40, 3:45, 5:50, 7:55, 10:00
5	CELLULAR	10:20, 12:40, 3.00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
6	WHITE CHICKS	10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
7	SHARK TALE	11:10, 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10 00
8	HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS	11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00
9	SKY CAPTAIN	12:50, 3.05, 5.20, 7:35, 9.50
10	WIMBLEDON	12:40, 3.00, 5:20, 7.40, 10.00

ERMITA — 536-7809 to 12

Cinema	Movie	Times
1	CELLULAR	10:55, 1:15, 3:35, 6:00, 8:20, 10:00
2	THE DOLL MASTER	10 20, 12.05, 2.00, 3:55, 5:50, 7:45, 9:40
3	LADDER 49	10:20, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
4	THE SIN	10.40, 12:55, 3:10, 5:25, 7:40, 10:00
5	WHITE CHICKS	10:55, 1:15, 3:25, 6:00, 8.20, 10:00
6	STEAL	11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:45
7	SKY CAPTAIN	10:55, 1:15, 3:35, 6:00, 8:20, 10:00

METRO EAST — 682-8193/99 / 682-8280

Cinema	Movie	Times
1	THE SIN	11:10, 1:40, 4:10, 6:40, 9:10
	LADDER 49	10:20, 12.30, 2 40, 7:00, 9:10
	HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS	11 40, 2:00, 4:20, 6 40, 9.00
	SKY CAPTAIN	10:30, 1:10, 3.50, 6.30, 9 10
5	CELLULAR	10 25, 12.50, 3:15, 5:40, 8.05, 10:30
6	SHARK TALE	10.50, 12:50, 2.50, 4.50, 6.50, 8 50, 10:30
7	WHITE CHICKS	11:50, 2:30, 5:10, 7:50, 10:30
8	THE DOLL MASTER	10:50, 1:10, 3:30, 5:50, 8:10, 10:30

NOVALICHES — 935-3229 / 31

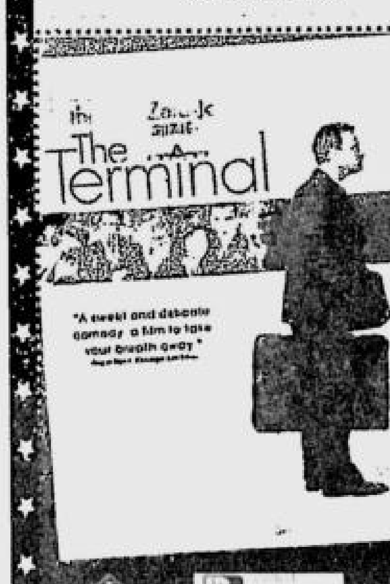
Cinema	Movie	Times
1	LADDER 49	11:00, 1:25, 3:50, 6:15, 8.40
	WHITE CHICKS	10:30, 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30
	THREE	12:10, 2:50, 5:30, 8:15
	FENG SHUI	11:00, 1.20, 3:40, 6:00, 8:30
5	SHARK TALE	10:30, 12:30, 2.30, 4.30, 6:30, 8:30
6	HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS	12.10, 2:50, 5.30, 8.15
7	RESIDENT EVIL 2	11:00, 1:20, 3:40, 6.00, 8:25
8	SKY CAPTAIN	10:15, 12:45, 3:15, 5:45, 8:20

Citisquare MALABON — 288-0985/2575

Cinema	Movie	Times
	LADDER 49	10.50, 1.15, 3.40, 6.05, 8:30
	HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS	11:10, 1:30, 3:50, 6.10, 8:30
3	THE PUNISHER	11:10, 1.30, 3 50, 6 10, 8:30
4	THE TOOL BOX MURDERS	10.55, 12.50, 2.45, 4.40, 6.35, 8.30

CAINTA — 240-4661

Cinema	Movie	Times
	THE SIN	10.55, 1:25, 3.55, 6:25, 8.55
	WHITE CHICKS	12 50, 3:30, 6.10, 8.50
3	THE DOLL MASTER	1:40, 2.00, 4:20, 6.40, 9.00
4	TUKSO SI...CHARITO 2	10:20, 12:20, 2:20, 4:20, 6:20, 8:20



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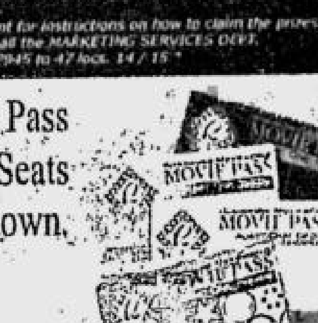

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The different fires within Travolta and Phoenix

By Ruben V. Nepales
LA Correspondent

INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

LOS ANGELES—"I was the only person he ever asked for an autograph. He has a picture of me in 'Urban Cowboy' which I signed when he was 8 or 9 years old. Very sweet."

John Travolta remembers this of Joaquin Phoenix while discussing a special connection with his co-star in "Ladder 49," a 9/11-inflected dramatic tribute to firefighters.

Travolta continues: "Like me, he was a child actor. So I feel like we have that kinship. I think the world of Joaquin. He's quite a decent fellow."

The Golden Globe best actor awardee and Academy Award nominee considers Phoenix and Scarlett Johansson as the best actors of their generation.

Unpredictable

But the kinship ends where the acting process starts, according to Jay Russell, director of "Ladder 49," who joins our table for lunch at the Four Seasons. Russell notes: "I don't know if this is a generational difference. John and Joaquin have different approaches. John is very detail-oriented. He is a pilot and he approaches his acting in the same way. He goes through his whole checklist beforehand, walks onto the set, checks all the little pieces.

"Joaquin also does a tremendous amount of homework and research before he arrives on the set. But whereas John goes, let's put down a roadmap and follow it, Joaquin is exploring even as the camera is rolling.

"That's why—not just in this film but also in the other films that Joaquin has been in—you're always a little off balance with him. He's trying to forget that we're all there with the lights, the cameras and everything. He's trying to find the actual reality of what's happening at that moment. That doesn't necessarily mean it's in conflict with what John's doing. It's just a different approach."

BLOW HOT, BLOW COLD. While Travolta (above) makes plans and follows them, Phoenix explores even while working before the cameras, according to director Jay Russel.

Travolta agrees. "Joaquin is a very serious actor," he says. "He's very thoughtful and very responsible in trying to do the job right. I admire his professionalism in that way. But he does remind me of myself years ago in his earnestness to get it right, to do all the training, and his diligence."

Joaquin's earnestness extended to the training that all the actors playing firemen, including Travolta and Jay Hernandez ("The Rookie," "Crazy/Beautiful"), underwent at the Baltimore City Fire Department, especially since virtually all the fires in this film are real, not CGI (computer-generated imaging) work.

"Joaquin's very humble about it," Russell recounts. "But when he finished his training, the fire academy instructor said, 'Look, if you want to sign up for the department, you're ready to join.'"

But it was difficult in the beginning, Joaquin admits, laughing. "I couldn't go down the fire pole. I wish you had seen Jay's face when I said I couldn't do it. He was like, 'Who did I cast for this movie?'"

'Feral' eyes

While Travolta is the picture of confidence in his power suit this afternoon, Phoenix, in a striped, short-sleeved cotton shirt with the collar askew, looks like a kid who stumbled into the hotel conference room by mistake. Thin, almost gaunt in appearance, he often looks down when he answers a question. We wonder—is this the Joaquin Phoenix who projects such intensity on the screen? It's certainly a testimony to how good an actor he is.

The intensity comes from those eyes, once described as "feral." Fansites claim that Phoenix's eyes are green, but today, in this room brightened by the afternoon sun, they seem to be a spooky gray.

Still, there is something endearing and childlike about this man-boy. Three days earlier, at an evening reception hosted by billionaire Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen, we saw Phoenix surrounded by friends, bopping his head to the music of Robbie Robertson and his band as they played "Shine Your Light," the "Ladder 49" theme song.

On the other hand, Travolta sat at a separate table by himself, except for two burly bodyguards planted on either side of him.

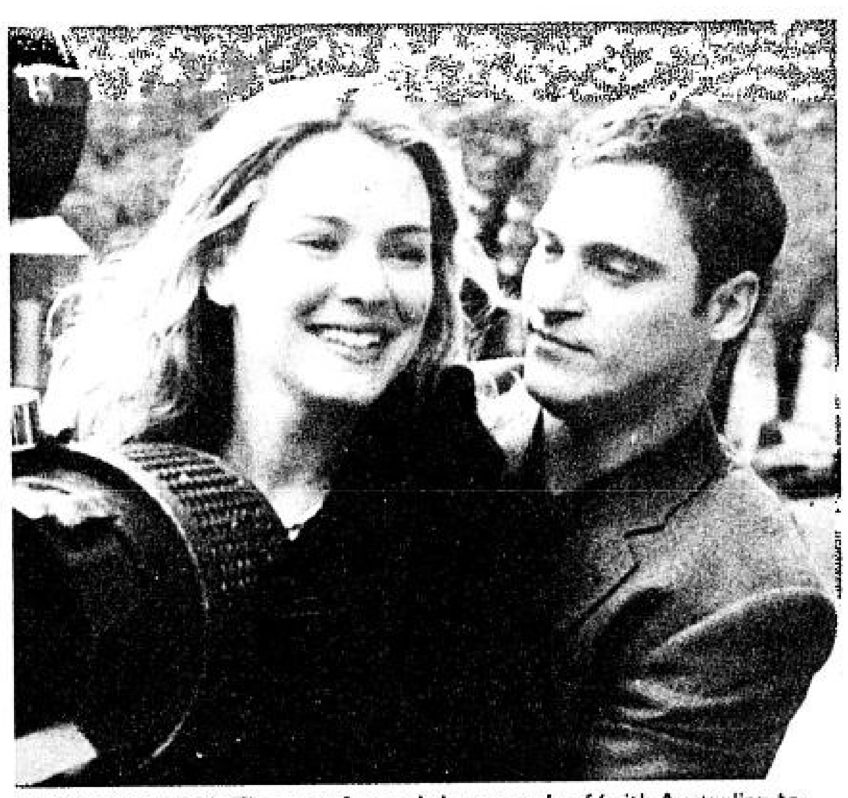
The Leaf that was

Today, Joaquin—brother of Rain, Butterfly, Summer and the late River—kisses and hugs Russell and other familiar people. He himself used to be called Leaf. It is said that he came up with the name while watching his dad rake leaves. Just think: He once dated a girl named Acacia.

But this product of parents, now divorced, who led a bohemian lifestyle as Christian missionaries, was previously quoted as saying, "As I got older, I thought [the name Leaf] was stupid, so I went back to the original."

In any case, Joaquin could be named Leaf, Bark, Root or Branch, and still be one of the most interesting actors to watch. The most recent proof is his wordless, wide-eyed, stunned reaction to a female character proposing marriage to him in "The Village." A harelip scar only serves to give his face more character, setting him further apart from today's so-called "emerging actors," who are virtually indistinguishable from one another.

Travolta: 'Like me, Joaquin was a child actor. So I feel like we have that kinship. I think the world of him. He's quite a decent fellow'



PHOENIX RISING. The actor formerly known as Leaf (with Australian co-star Jacinda Barrett) is "a very serious actor," according to Travolta.

INQUIRER Entertainment asks Phoenix to elaborate on Russell's observation about his continued "exploring even as the camera is rolling." The actor obliges: "You need to always have an idea of what you want to accomplish in a scene. You know what the end result will be, but [while] most actors and directors are focused on [that] end result, to me the most interesting part is the process, the journey getting there. You have to be responsive to the moment, to the other actors and to the environment.

Crock full of…

"I don't know how you can sit in your hotel room, know exactly what you want to do, and map out the scene. You may arrive on the set and there's a window that you have not considered. There are so many different things that will come into play, so many different factors that you're going to have to adjust to.

"As long as you know the core of your character, you're able to try and explore different things within the scene, and hopefully capture a sense of spontaneity. But you still have to be able to make adjustments, especially in a movie like this one."

Phoenix feels just as strongly for colleagues who study other performers. "That's horse s--t," he says. "I know a couple of actors who do that. I know guys who literally like to rewind a scene and watch Dustin Hoffman do something over and over."

He applies the same term to actors who watch rushes. "They feel they can watch rushes and learn something. I don't think they do. All they learn is what angle they think they look best at. They learn that they don't like their smile like this [demonstrates] or that they'd like to look taller, or that they like all this s--t that has nothing to do with what acting is all about. It breeds a certain self-awareness that is not good."

Basing on the birth date listed in Phoenix's bio, another writer prefaces a question by asking how the actor feels about turning 30 this month. "Oh, actually, I'll be 32," he says, chuckling. "I lied about my age for years."

After the laughter in the room dies down, he replies to the main question, which is what his transformation from a young to a mature actor felt like. "It did happen very quickly," he says. "They used to say, 'He's a kid, he's new; it's okay if he fumbles the lines.' Then I had to be on top of my game all the time. I think that in 'Signs,' I realized for the first time that I was [in fact] an adult and had to get everything right. I can no longer be the guy who says things like, 'I am going to have trouble with this.'

"Something happens when there are expectations. You hit all the beats. I think that's probably the difference between when you first start out and when you've been in the business for a while."

Half a century

In "Ladder 49," Phoenix marries the stunningly pretty-in-person Jacinda Barrett, yet another actress from Australia, who was in "MTV Real World: London" in 1995. He is asked if his immediate future plans include starting a family of his own.

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